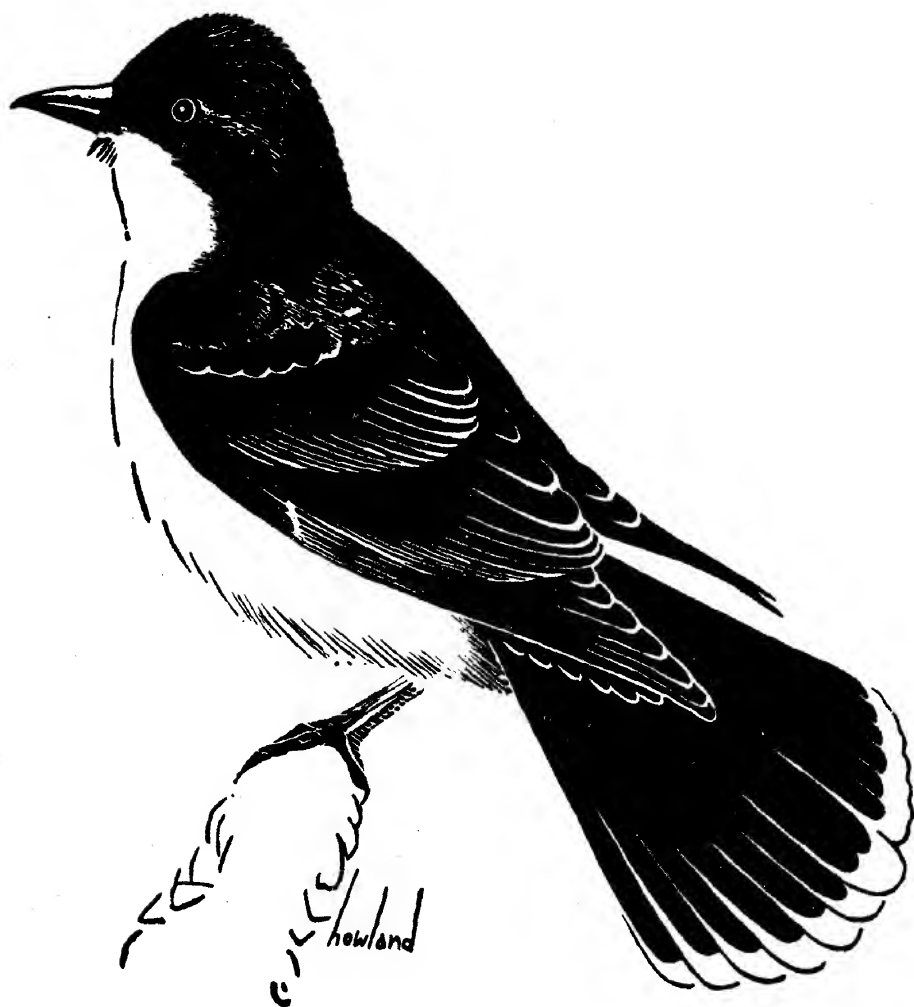


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XXXI, NO. 1

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**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

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*Co-Editors* — Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

*Highlights of the Fall Season*

*Editor* — Robert Spahn

*Circulation Manager* — Constance N. Wilkins

*Cover Design* — Douglas L. Howland



*Rufous Hummingbird – Elizabethtown, Essex Co.  
3 September 1980* John M. C. Peterson

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

### 38. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

GEOFFREY CARLETON

For several years I have birded in September at a spot in the village of Elizabethtown, Essex County, which contains a large mass of jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*). Above it is a steep bank used as a dump, so the observer at the top can easily see birds at all levels. This patch has always attracted Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

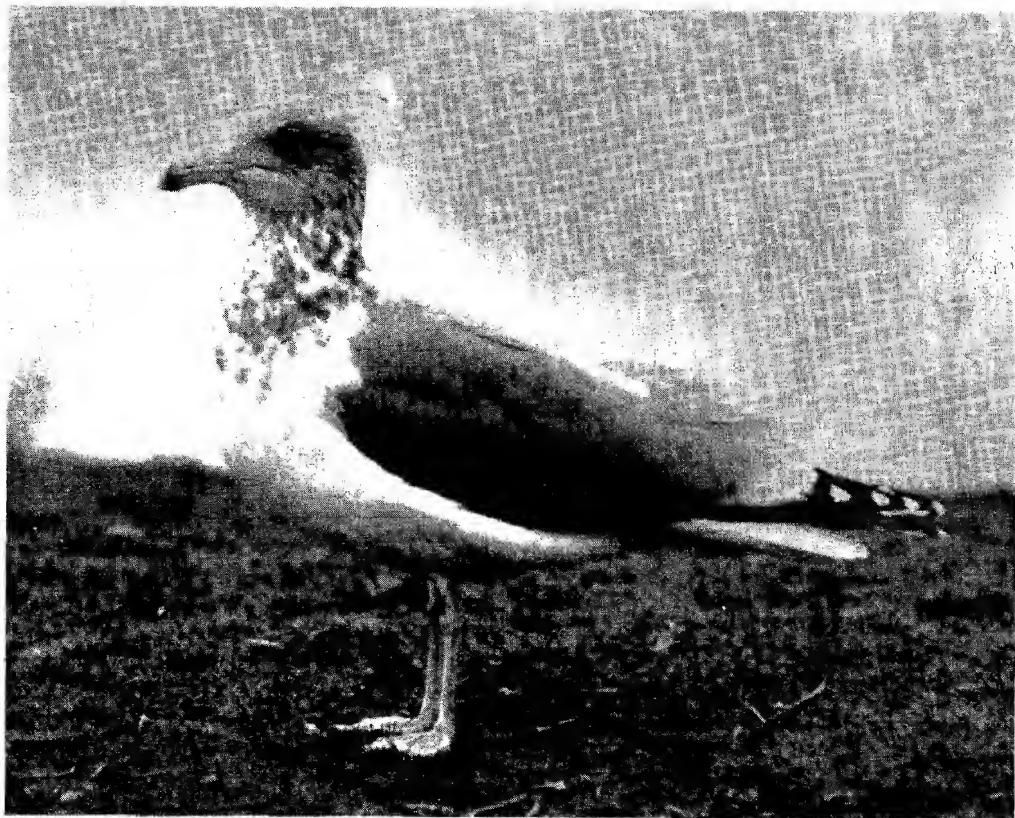
From about 11 p.m. to midnight on 2 September, 1980, strong westerly to northwesterly winds awakened me. On 3 September I was electrified to see a "hummer" with entirely rusty brown upper parts. I got Pat Taber to come right over and she commented on the larger size of this bird, compared with Ruby-throats, and on its squared tail tipped with dark spots; we then noticed that a triangular dark patch on the left side of its throat flashed vermilion. We were obviously looking at a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), a first record for New York State.

Mike Peterson and Elspeth Johnson got there soon and found the bird aggressively chasing Ruby-throats, of which there were four or more in female plumage; they also heard calls from the Rufous, which were deeper than those of the Ruby-throats.

Others that saw the Rufous on 3-4 September included Bea and Cassius Guyett, Norman Mason (who had seen it in the western U.S.), Alan Pistorius, Gary Randorf (who had seen it in Alaska), Wayne Scott, Don and Jan Timmons, and Cecelia Wojciokiewicz. Various visitors reported the bird during the next several afternoons, although the writer scanned the area each morning from 6 September to 12 September without finding it. Surprisingly, Mike Peterson and a group from the High Peaks Audubon Society found it on 13 September. The jewelweed soon turned brown and no "hummers" were seen after that date. For a complete listing of all records for Rufous Hummingbird east of the Mississippi, see Conway and Drennan, The Rufous Hummingbird in eastern North America, *American Birds* 33: 2, March, 1979.

*Elizabethtown, New York*





*California Gull – Rockland Lake, Rockland Co.  
October 1978* *Thomas H. Davis*

This photo, which appeared in *The Kingbird* Volume XXX, No. 4, p. 198, was not satisfactorily reproduced at that time. We are therefore reprinting it.

## 1980 FEDERATION SPRING MIGRATION SURVEY

CHERYL BOISE and GORDON M. MEADE

During May 1980 over 700 birders, representing 32 clubs or groups, participated in the Federation's seventh annual spring migration survey. The basic pattern of these "Century Runs," or "Big Days" is an attempt to list all the species that can be found during a 24 hour period between May 10th and 31st. Most of them were made on the weekend of May 17-18, plus a pelagic trip on June 7th. Many survey groups noted much better weather conditions as compared with those of 1979. The species count total in 1980 was 274. This compares with 1979's total of 269, and 1976 high of 284 species.

Individual group totals ranged from 48 to 219 with the Rochester area survey again taking the lead. The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club with 180 species had the second highest count.

Two new species were added to the cumulative total for the seven years, making it 321 species, as the pelagic trip group located 4 Leach's Storm-Petrels, and the Cayuga Bird Club reported a LeConte's Sparrow.

Of the species seen on at least half of the previous six counts, 13 were "missed" this year: Red-necked Grebe, Northern Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Whistling Swan, Snow Goose, Rough-legged Hawk, Red and Northern Phalaropes, Great Skua, Glaucous Gull, Short-eared Owl, Connecticut Warbler, and Pine Grosbeak. There were only two reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Prothonotary Warbler. Continuing evidence comes from the spring surveys of the very precarious status of the Loggerhead Shrike, which has been reported in only four of the years, with a total of only six individuals; this year a single bird was seen in the Rochester area.

Several groups commented on the abundance of spring migrants this year with fine representation of warblers, sparrows and other passerines. As a result many species, such as Orchard Oriole, were found by more groups than in 1979. Fifteen species seen this year but not in 1979 were: Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Black Scoter, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Spruce Grouse, American Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Chuck-will's-widow, Gray Jay, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Red Crossbill.

The strong migration also produced a number of noteworthy sightings. Stilt Sandpipers appeared in the Oneida and Rochester areas. A Franklin's Gull, an expanding Fish Crow population and a LeConte's Sparrow were reported by the Cayuga Bird Club. A Kentucky Warbler "invasion" surprised birders from southern to central New York, with a singing male reported by the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society. White-eyed Vireos, some distance out of range, were reported by Cortland County Bird Club and the Rochester group.

The House Finch seems to have almost completed its invasion of the state as it was reported on 26 of the 31 land counts; only the Adirondack and North Country counts failed to report it.

The eighth spring migration survey dates in 1981 will be the entire month of May and the first week of June. As the Atlas Project gets well under way it is possible that 1981 will be the last year in which the Federation's spring migration survey will be held.

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## COMMENTS ON THE FIRST RECORDED OCCURRENCE OF MISSISSIPPI KITES IN NEW YORK

JAMES W. PARKER

Clermont (1979) presented a complete account of the first appearance of Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in New York State. I was aware of the presence of the two kites shortly after they were first seen, and was considerably excited by the event, but because of an impending trip west to study prairie populations of this species, I could not travel to view the kites on Staten Island. Some comments on this event and some relevant biology of Mississippi Kites may be of interest to New Yorkers hoping to see this species here again.

The area frequented by the kites on Staten Island was very typical of the habitat chosen by an increasing number of urban-nesting kites in the Great Plains. Recently, my attention has been drawn to these kites which often forage and nest on golf courses and in municipal parks (Parker and Ogden, 1979; Parker, personal observation). Kites breed abundantly in Great Plains shelterbelts (windbreaks), and apparently have shifted readily to urban "woodlands" resembling shelterbelts. In the process they are apparently becoming accustomed to close human presence, and their nest defense behavior occasionally causes needless problems with human residents. If kites are soon found nesting in extralimital areas, it will probably be in habitat such as the birds used on Staten Island.

The kites seen in New York were described by Clermont as adults with "faint barring on the long, narrow, brownish and slightly-notched tail." However, adult kites have shiny black tails without any barring. The photograph by Bernie Paul prefacing Clermont's article clearly shows bands on the tail of the lower kite, but the angle of the tail of the upper kite would not show bands if they were present. The bars are usually three, fairly distinct and on the inner vanes of the rectrices, and are present only in the rectrices of the original juvenal plumage. These rectrices are worn by fledglings and are retained into the next summer after the kites have largely completed the molt into a gray-and-black adult head and body plumage (Bent, 1937; Parker, 1974, pers. obs.). The kites on Staten Island were apparently yearlings and not adults. If two bar-tailed kites were seen at one time, and one or more black-tailed kites were seen at another time, there would have been more than two kites present.

Yearling kites will mate and nest, and their frequency in Great Plains breeding colonies varies around 10 percent. However, in a number of other recent extralimital sightings of kites in Indiana (Mumford and Keller, 1975), Minnesota (Litkey, 1973; Janssen, 1975; Greenfield, 1980) and Wisconsin (Koroter, 1978; Knuth, 1980) at least three of six birds were yearlings. This indicates that yearling kites are more likely to wander than adults, as is the case with many bird species (Welty, 1975).

Clermont indicated that in body size kites are no larger than jays. Although Mississippi Kites are slim, their weight usually exceeds 250 gm and large females approach 325 gm. They do have much larger bodies than jays.

A number of authors (Brown and Amadon, 1968; Bent, 1937; Fitch, 1963; Sutton, 1939) indicate that kites are almost entirely insectivorous. Some, like Rising and Kilgore (1964), suggest that kites are dependent on cicadas in some areas. Recent work (Parker, 1974; unpublished data) shows that kites do take a significant amount of vertebrate prey and will also scavenge. The kites on Staten Island certainly would have opportunistically capitalized on the abundant 17-year cicadas. However, there is less reason to believe they followed cicada populations north than that they accompanied a major north-moving air mass.

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## A BREEDING TRIANGLE—WREN STYLE

BOOTH H. PERKINS

In June of 1979, on the lower Chenango River, in Broome County, a male Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) tested the strict segregation of species. He consorted with a female House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Those parental duties he was seen to perform, he performed well. But his role (and probably his aspirations) were flawed. He seemed to have missed the first act.

I found this odd pair on the 23rd of June at the northern limit of the village of Port Dickinson, on a section of river bottom whose top soil and underlying gravel had not yet been stripped away, and where the meadow rue, jewelweed and dame's rocket still crowded beneath the black cherries and silver maples. Their nest was in an old woodpecker hole in an elm blighted when yet young. The hole was about 15 feet up. I was looking for nests that day and was drawn to this one by the singing of the Carolina Wren.

Right away it seemed strange that a Carolina Wren would sing so close to a hole (within 30 feet of it) where a House Wren was nesting. At first I thought the Carolina Wren was harassing the House Wren, for she would stick her head out and scold. The Carolina Wren finally fled. Shortly after, the House Wren flew out, apparently to spell herself. While she was gone, the Carolina Wren reappeared on a stub below the hole. He held green larvae in his beak. This returned the House Wren to a perch just below the Carolina Wren's. Neither scrapped, but the Carolina Wren left, still carrying the larvae. Then the female reached into the hole and flew off with a fecal sac. In her absence the Carolina Wren returned again with the larvae. This time he fed them to a fledgling whose head appeared in the hole. Before he flew off, he, too, reached into the hole and picked up a fecal sac.

I watched their comings and goings for perhaps an hour. Little changed. Sometimes the Carolina Wren came without food and left without taking a thing. Sometimes it was the House Wren who fed a fledgling. And always it was so tantalizing to see those fledgling heads bobbing in and out of that hole and not know what they were. A male House Wren was singing in the same woods, but in another territory, for though he moved from perch to perch in the distance, his singing never came closer.

The fledglings acted as if they could scarcely contain themselves in

their hole, so I decided to return the next morning to see if they'd scramble out.

June 24th. Well before I entered his neck of the woods, I heard the Carolina Wren again singing above the noise from nearby Rte. 81. He sang from where I saw him first, perching on a low branch of a silver maple. As I listened, I heard two more wrens chattering to one another from deep within a nearby tangle of grape vines and briars. These were the fledglings. When they finally edged out into the sunlight, I saw that there were four—all look-alikes and none resembling a Carolina Wren. For two-and-a-half hours I watched them, or tried to watch them. They spent much of the time hidden in the tangle. Fifteen feet was about as close as I approached. Studying them at this distance through 7 x 35 binoculars, I could see no markings or coloration suggestive of a hybrid.

Both the Carolina and the House Wren made trips to feed them, usually bringing larvae but sometimes small moths or other insects. The House Wren did the bulk of the feeding. She made more than twice as many trips. Occasionally, though it was now vacant, the Carolina Wren returned to the nest-hole with insects.

When not busy with feeding, the Carolina Wren sang. This morning he limited himself to two songs and one call, a recurrent trill, sounding like Cheer, Cheer, Cheer. Sometimes he darted after another bird, a small brown one that never intruded within 50 feet of the fledglings. Since this bird always vanished with the Carolina Wren in hot pursuit, I never identified it, but in light of later events, I suspect it was a male House Wren. Once a Gray Catbird came to the tangle, poked near the fledglings, then left without either adult wren threatening it.

I returned in the evening to see how the fledglings would spend their first night out. They had broken into an abandoned tent caterpillars' nest, but being young, they squirmed a lot. Too much. For squirming in a caterpillars' tent has its hazards. The fibers split apart and the nest disintegrated. Five fledglings tumbled from the tatters. They scattered at first but quickly regrouped in another black cherry, for it was nearly dark now. Some wormed themselves into another abandoned caterpillars' tent, one much smaller than the first. Those left out squeezed into an abandoned bird's nest no larger than a Yellow Warbler's. When they quieted, I left them in the cool darkness of their black cherry.

June 25th. I was delayed until mid-afternoon. A male House Wren was now singing. He sang from the same low branch of the silver



maple as the Carolina Wren sang from. I soon discovered that when the House Wren wasn't singing, he was being chased by the Carolina Wren, and that when the Carolina Wren wasn't chasing, he was singing near the fledglings who hid in another thicket. They responded at times to the Carolina Wren's song by chattering but ignored the House Wren's.

June 26th. 10:30 a.m. The male House Wren was singing from the coveted branch. A grackle swooped onto the truncated top of the dead elm. The House Wren ceased singing and began rattling. From somewhere under the dame's rocket and the meadow rue, another wren also began rattling. The grackle clacked and flew away.

When the grackle was gone, the male House Wren darted down after the rattling wren in the meadow rue. This other wren was the female House Wren. The male chased her several times, and after each chase he returned to the silver maple perch to sing.

Intermittently throughout this chasing and singing, the Carolina Wren, about 100 feet distant, was shouting his *seawarr* song. At last he approached the singing House Wren. With his most troglodytic threats (low rattles) he drove the male House Wren from perch to perch until both wrens were outside the nest-hole territory.

But within three minutes the male House Wren was back to sing. Between bursts of song he searched for twigs and dried grass which he carried to the nest-hole. Sometimes the female interrupted his lusty song by announcing her presence beneath the flowers. Then he would chase her, often out of sight.

For an hour-and-a-half the Carolina Wren only entered the immediate nest area the one time he chased the male House Wren. The reason for his restraint may have been the fledglings, for I saw two close to where he consistently sang. This was the last day I was to see the fledglings.

June 28th. 11:30 a.m. While the female House Wren brought twigs and grass to the nest-hole, the male House Wren alternated his perch between the elm's jagged top and the silver maple branch. He sang very little. Perhaps he had no peace of mind, for the Carolina Wren repeatedly drove him from the vicinity. Whenever he approached the male House Wren, he did so with a peculiar hissing rattle.

The exigencies of life intervened before I could determine the outcome of this conflict between the two male wrens. I suspect I had already seen, though in disjointed segments, the full sequence of events. The fledglings of the first brood were probably fathered by a House

Wren, most likely by the same one whom I saw trying to assert his right to the female. After the House Wren mated, the Carolina Wren succeeded in driving him out of the nesting territory. Then while the House Wren lurked around the boundaries, occasionally whisking in to check on the proceedings, the Carolina Wren took over his parental duties. Both the female and the immature House Wrens accepted the Carolina Wren's apparent usurpation.

Later that summer I searched in A. C. Bent's *Life Histories* and elsewhere for studies on the behavior of House and Carolina Wrens *vis à vis* each other. I found only a brief description.<sup>1</sup> This was by Grant Henderson who, writing nearly 50 years ago from Greensburg, Indiana, reported that each spring the Carolina Wrens that wintered in his woods would drive the returning House Wrens from his yard. One spring in particular, he says, when the Carolina Wrens were late in coming out of the woods, a pair of House Wrens had already begun to nest in a rick of wood. With the appearance of the Carolina Wrens, the House Wrens abandoned their incomplete nest and left the premises.

Though his observations are quite different from mine, they are nonetheless helpful. They lead me to consider territoriality as a means of explaining why the events I observed unfolded as they did. The Carolina Wrens on the lower Chenango River are resident, wintering in the same woods and tangles where they nest. This fact alone makes it reasonable to assume that they establish their territories well before the migrating House Wrens do. When you add to this the fact that male Carolina Wrens can be heard singing on the warm days of March and April, and that both adults can be seen feeding fledglings by the 15th of May, it is almost certain that the House Wrens enter staked-out territories. Since the Carolina Wrens are not as numerous here as House Wrens, they cannot divide up the entire woods among themselves, nor can they always pair the sexes. As a result the two species can and do nest side by side in these same woods. Clearly, in the case of one presumptuous male Carolina Wren, unpaired but in possession of a coveted nest-hole, the two species can even cooperate in raising a brood.

<sup>1</sup> Grant Henderson, "Incompatibility of House and Carolina Wrens," *Wilson Bulletin*, 43 (Sept. 1931), 224-25.

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## ENGLISH BIRD NAMES IN "THE KINGBIRD"

In the recently published Fourth edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds*, by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin, 1980), certain departures have been made from the English nomenclature of birds recommended by the American Ornithologists' Union, as published in the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, Fifth edition (1957), and as officially changed in supplements to the *Check-list* that have appeared from time to time in *The Auk*. Because this splendid new field guide is sure to be widely used in New York State and elsewhere, we feel it advisable to reaffirm the policy of *The Kingbird* in this matter, which has been to adhere as strictly as possible to the English and scientific names of birds that are officially recognized by the A.O.U.

Because of the seemingly long delay in the publication of the Sixth edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list*, the difficulty involved in consulting the various supplements that have gradually appeared, and the rise of competing systems of nomenclature, strict adherence to A.O.U. English names is not always easy. However, we believe that a number of advantages outweigh the disadvantages of this editorial policy. Due to the regular and orderly appearance of several editions of the A.O.U. *Check-list* over the last century, generations of students of birds in North America have enjoyed a stability in birds' names far greater than that in most countries overseas. This stability, while often taken for granted, has made it much easier than it would otherwise be to use the vast literature on North American birds. The A.O.U. system is used not only in *The Auk*, but in other important American ornithological journals, among them *American Birds*, *The Condor*, the *Journal of Field Ornithology* (formerly *Bird-Banding*) and *The Wilson Bulletin*, and, insofar as strictly North American birds are concerned, these names are widely used in publications in English-speaking countries abroad. They have also been adopted by the Federal Government, for use in all its official publications, and by numerous conservation organizations and scientific societies devoted to the study of organisms other than birds or to such generalized subjects as ecology, behavior and physiology. We believe that the value of this system of stable, standardized names justifies continuing to endure a temporary period of inconvenience, while we all await the appearance of the Sixth edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list*. Our patience is soon to be rewarded. We have been informed that a

completed manuscript of the Sixth edition now exists, and is in the hands of regional authorities, who will check and refine the range statements. The new *Check-list* is scheduled to be published before the Centennial meeting of the A.O.U. in 1983, and its targetted deadline is 1982. This new edition will not only cover all of North America, as previous editions have, but will also include the birds of the West Indies and of Central America south through Panama.

In the meantime, in order to make things easier for contributors to the Regional Reports and for authors of papers published in *The Kingbird*, we are listing all the recent changes of English names that involve the birds of New York State. This same list was published in the Spring 1977 issue of *The Kingbird* (Vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 89-90), along with citations to the various supplements.

Old Name	New Name
Fulmar	Northern Fulmar
Leach's Petrel	Leach's Storm-Petrel
Wilson's Petrel	Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Common Egret	Great Egret
Wood Ibis	Wood Stork
"Black Brant"	Brant
"Blue Goose"	Snow Goose
Fulvous Tree Duck	Fulvous Whistling-Duck
"Common Teal"	Green-winged Teal
European Widgeon	European Wigeon
American Widgeon	American Wigeon
Shoveler	Northern Shoveler
Common Scoter	Black Scoter
Pigeon Hawk	Merlin
Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel
Upland Plover	Upland Sandpiper
Knot	Red Knot
"Yellow-shafted Flicker"	Common Flicker
Trail's Flycatcher	Willow Flycatcher
Trail's Flycatcher	Alder Flycatcher
Catbird	Gray Catbird
Robin	American Robin
Parula Warbler	Northern Parula
"Myrtle Warbler"	Yellow-rumped Warbler
"Audubon's Warbler"	Yellow-rumped Warbler

Yellowthroat	Common Yellowthroat
"Baltimore Oriole"	Northern Oriole
"Bullock's Oriole"	Northern Oriole
"Ipswich Sparrow"	Savannah Sparrow
"Slate-colored Junco"	Dark-eyed Junco
"Oregon Junco"	Dark-eyed Junco

In addition to the above changes, a race of the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus thayeri*, has been raised to the rank of a full species, to be called Thayer's Gull.

Some of these changes are the result of lumping of species; in these cases the old names are given above in quotes. These old names can and should still be used to refer to recognizable subspecies and populations (e.g., "Slate-colored Junco" and "Oregon Junco" to refer to two distinguishable forms that are now regarded as one species, the Dark-eyed Junco). Old names not enclosed in quotes have been changed for reasons not involving the lumping of species, and should no longer be used.

In determining the currently correct English name of a species, the above list can be used in conjunction with the Fifth edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list*, or with *Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification*, commonly known as the "Golden Guide," by C. S. Robbins, B. Bruun and H. S. Zim, and illustrated by Arthur Singer (Golden Press, 1966). The latter book follows the official A.O.U. nomenclature as of 1957. The current A.O.U. English names, including those changed in supplements since 1957, are used in *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds: Eastern Region*, by J. Bull and J. Farrand, Jr. (Alfred A. Knopf, 1977); it should be noted that in this book the species are not listed in systematic order.

We regret the inconvenience that this matter is causing all of us, readers, contributors and editors, but we believe that the study of birds is best served by seeking to maintain the stability and standardization of bird names that have been of such benefit for very nearly one hundred years.

The Editors



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

While there are the expected similarities, this season's regional reports reflect again the diversity to be expected from a state of this size with the range of elevations and variety of habitats present. There was nearly complete agreement that September was warm followed by October and November colder than normal. Most areas were dry, though Regions 2 and 6 were much wetter than normal, mainly due to a few heavy rains. The first substantial snowfall occurred in mid-November across the state. Where noted, wild food was abundant, except that the cone crop was poor and Regions 5 and 7 termed the overall food picture mixed and poor, respectively. The weather patterns of this fall were not conducive to frequent groundings or to major low flights, though nearly all regions noted good days, particularly in early October. Indicators of these patterns are the virtual absence of tower kills at the closely monitored sites in Elmira on the one extreme and the outstanding migrant grounding precipitated by a cold front in Region 5 on October 6, at the other.

Fall is a season of "flights," the southward passage of particular species or groups awaited with anticipation and often carefully monitored annually by birders in the various regions. These showed considerable contrast this year. Loons and grebes were considered low or poor in nearly all regions; at best "fair" in Regions 6 and 7. Waterfowl provided more contrast. Geese were low in Regions 1, 2, 7 and 8, moderate in 3, and termed good in the remaining regions. Brant were nearly absent from Regions 2 and 5 where flights are normally seen along Lake Ontario. Ducks generally followed a very similar pattern with numbers much better as you move eastward and southward across the state. The major fall hawk flight is traditionally coastal and along adjacent mountain ridges. This flight is well covered in the reports of Regions 9 and 10. Encouraging numbers are noted for several species, including the smaller accipiters, Red-tailed Hawk, and Marsh Hawk. Statewide, note 21 Bald Eagles and 67 Peregrine Falcons, both decreases from last year, but the latter still encouraging. Red-shouldered Hawk remains very low with only Regions 4, 7 and 9 providing any respite from pessimism. Shorebirding suffered from lack of habitat along Lake Ontario, but saw much increased, drought-exposed habitat downstate. Of the regularly occurring shore-

bird species, 35 were recorded this fall. Only Piping Plover and Willet were unmentioned. Each region had its noteworthy sightings. Gulls, too, were well-represented; the "white-winged" species were low, Laughing Gull appeared in four regions, Franklin's in three, Little Gull in six, and Black-legged Kittiwake in four. Incredibly, Sabine's Gull was observed in three inland regions with single immatures in Regions 5 and 7 and two adults in Region 2. Among the passerines, major widespread movements noted were: Black-capped Chickadee—abundant in most regions with only timing variable—late September and October everywhere except November in Region 2; American Robin—high numbers in all regions where noted; winter finches—all recorded except Hoary Redpoll, but numbers and variety variable across regions; Pine Siskin—a massive movement through October in Region 10; White-crowned Sparrow—high in Regions 2, 8, 9 and 10; and White-throated Sparrow—abundant in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. Finally, spread across families of birds, the picture of northern "invaders" is again variable: Rough-legged Hawk was low in Regions 1, 4 and 9, moderate in 3, 6, 8 and 10, and high in 2, 5, and 7; Snowy Owl appeared in small numbers in Regions 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 and fair numbers in Region 10; Bohemian Waxwings visited Regions 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7; and Northern Shrike was absent from Regions 3, 4 and 10 and present in only small numbers elsewhere.

In addition to the major flights receiving specific annual attention, any period of migration provides an abundance of interesting observations and this fall was no exception. Consider early arrivals and late departures with their attendant speculations concerning indications of winter weather. All regions had at least a few local early or late dates. When weighed against historical records on a statewide basis, the number shrinks to manageable proportions and the late outweigh the early by a wide margin. On this scale, only Palm Warbler, Sept. 6 in Region 7 remains to represent "early." New late dates for the state included: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Nov. 2 in Region 10; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Oct. 15 in Region 5 and Oct. 24 in Region 1; and Swainson's Thrush, Nov. 2 in Region 2. Other very late departures were: Cattle Egret, Region 4; Semipalmated Sandpiper, Region 10; Northern Phalarope, Region 2; juvenal Hermit Thrush, banded in Region 8; White-eyed Vireo, banded in Region 3; Philadelphia Vireo, Region 2; Tennessee Warbler, Regions 2, 9 and 10; Yellow Warbler, Region 4; Blackburnian Warbler, Region 5; Northern Waterthrush,

Region 1; Yellow-breasted Chat, Region 5; Hooded Warbler, Region 2; American Redstart, Regions 2 and 10; and Indigo Bunting, Region 8. The warbler dates are particularly interesting in that their migration as a whole was termed poor to spotty.

Additional observations buried among the regional reports should satisfy almost any taste or interest. For the Blue List trackers, there are notes of some kind for nearly all of those species found in New York. Double-crested Cormorant, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, and both kinglets showed much improvement. Red-necked Grebe, American Bittern, Common Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, and Vesper Sparrow were down. Least Bittern, King Rail, Piping Plover, Roseate Tern, and Least Tern were unreported. The rest received variable reports or too few comments for any conclusions to be drawn. For the wader watchers, there was an increase in white herons with Snowy Egret in Regions 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10; Cattle Egret in 3, 4, 6 and 9; and Great Egret in 2, 3, 9 and 10. The closet rail watchers, and apparently that describes most since there are never many reports, should find tears coming to their eyes as they picture that lonely immature Virginia Rail marching up Madison Avenue during rush hour. Notes of this type at all levels of seriousness are in almost endless supply.

Beyond the annual flights and all of the interesting observations, fall is the season of vagrant rarities. While it may be argued that most of these sightings are of little or no lasting ornithological value, their possibility certainly does add spice to fall birding. As usual, by virtue of geography, the coast, particularly Long Island, remains the premier area for finding rarities. However, don't overlook the rest of the state; each region has its goodies. Remember that those western rarities must fly over or around the rest of the state to reach the coast and under proper conditions may put down almost anywhere briefly before rushing off to their appointed spots on Long Island. The cream of this fall's crop were: Region 1—Yellow Rail and Varied Thrush; Region 2—Eared Grebe, Gannet, Sabine's Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, lingering Common Raven, and Boat-tailed Grackle; Region 3—Fish Crow; Region 4—Varied Thrush; Region 5—Laughing Gull and Sabine's Gull; Region 7—Sabine's Gull and Harris' Sparrow; Region 9—Little Blue Heron, White Ibis, California Gull, Western Kingbird, Dickcissel, and Black Vulture; and Region 10—White-faced Ibis, White-fronted Goose, American Avocet, Western Kingbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, and Boat-tailed

Grackle. Identifiable subspecies noted in the regional reports were: "Oregon" Junco in Regions 2, 3 and 4; and "Ipswich" Sparrow and "Gambel's" Sparrow in Region 10.

Leaping out from among all these records as BOTS is Region 7's Rufous Hummingbird, a state first, present from September 3 through 13.

For the scorekeepers, at least 312 species were recorded across the state during this fall season.

*716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580*

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"To bird or not to bird?" – now that's the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to sit and watch a feeder, refuse to burn expensive gas and by opposing, end one part of runaway inflation, or to go in spite of that and search the roadside haunts. Of course, some already know the joys of birding on foot with the added bonus of better health. In view of the abundance of wild foods, perhaps the low numbers and many omissions in reports are more a reflection of limited driving than of actual status of birds. However, some flights, as noted below, were definitely poor while others were splendid.

The drought of summer continued through fall with precipitation an inch (2.5 cm.) below normal. Although September was unusually warm, 2.9° F. (1.6° C.) above normal, October and November were very cold with temperatures of each 2.7° F. (1.5° C.) below average. For these last two months, the jet stream was far south of its normal path, pulling arctic cold into our region. Particularly in the Southern Tier, woods and fields were so quiet, it was as though a giant hand had come through in late October, sweeping bird life before it.

Fall positives include 1) good numbers of the Great Blue Heron, 2) Turkey Vultures and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks doing O.K., 3) grouse, and Turkeys thriving, 4) widespread reports of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird to October 6, 5) excellent numbers of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Hairy Woodpecker, 6) strong flights of the Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7) a few more Winter and Carolina Wrens, 8) many robins and Eastern Bluebirds, 9) a superb kinglet recovery and hordes of Cedar Waxwings, 10) a splendid Rusty Blackbird flight, 11) regular appearance of small Cardinal numbers, 12) continued large Purple Finch population in the Southern Tier to November 13, House Finches about to "inherit the Earth"



(Jones), here and there a "winter" finch, and many American Goldfinches, and 13) a fair White-crowned Sparrow flight with a fine one for the White-throats.

Negatives for the fall include 1) a dismal loon flight, 2) no Red-necked Grebes or Double-crested Cormorants, 3) fewer migrating geese over the Southern Tier, 4) a poor duck flight, 5) scarcity of Red-shouldered Hawks and lower numbers of the American Kestrels, 6) Ring-necked Pheasants still in bad shape, 7) a light but interesting shorebird flight, 8) few Screech and no Long-eared or Short-eared Owls, 9) a drop in Red-headed Woodpecker numbers and the Downy population down by half near Fredonia (Jones), 10) the continued sad plight of Horned Larks, 11) little improvement in titmouse numbers and no Long-billed or Short-billed Marsh Wrens, 12) very few thrush reports other than robins and bluebirds, and almost no shrikes, 13) a spotty warbler flight, 14) the status of Eastern Meadowlarks no better, 15) Purple Finches nearly absent on the lake plains, and 16) no Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows, and few Vesper or Tree Sparrows.

Rarities include Snowy Egret, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, Yellow Rail, Red Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Raven, Varied Thrush, Prairie Warbler, and from *Addenda* Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Summer Tanager.

Abbreviations: ACC—Allegheny County Bird Census, Oct. 12, compiled by D. Burton; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; EEC—Environmental Education Center; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res.—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park; SPA—State Power Authority.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Although the Com. Loon that spent the summer in Hume Twp., Allegheny Co., stayed on through Sept. 19 (KP), the fall flight for the species was nearly missing with only reports being one near Alfred Oct. 29 and Nov. 1 (EB) and two at Niagara Falls Nov. 16 and 23 (RA+). The Red-throated Loon was even scarcer with no reports. Noteworthy news of long-legged waders includes: Great Egret, max 10 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 1 and 7 (AM, WM) and one at the Allegheny Res. Sept. 22 (SE); SNOWY EGRET, one at Buffalo Harbor through Sept. 5 (RA, MF), the same bird as seen here in August; Black-crowned Night Heron, three at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 15 (AS, ARC), the only report; and Am. Bittern, none. The Regional max of the Canada Goose flight was only 4,000 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30 (SB), while a single Snow Goose (white morph) was noted here Oct. 26 (RA+). On the ACC, ducks of interest include: Mallard, 364; Black Duck, four; White-winged Scoter, two; and Com. Merganser, 21. Maxima of the fall duck migration, unless otherwise indicated, and other than the ACC, were: Mallard, 37 in Hume Twp. Oct. 4; Black Duck, one in Hume Twp. Sept. 13 and two in Birdsall Twp. Sept. 28 (only reports); Pintail, one at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Green-winged Teal, singles at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 15 and at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Blue-winged Teal, 30 in Hume Twp. Sept. 30; Am. Wigeon,



100 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; No. Shoveler, one at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Wood Duck, 21 in Hume Twp. Sept. 1; Redhead, 35 at Mayville Oct. 26; Ring-necked Duck, one on Amity L. Oct. 22; Canvasback, 27 at Mayville Oct. 26 and nine more of this Blue Listed species at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Greater Scaup, 125 at Mayville Oct. 26; Com. Goldeneye, one near Alfred Nov. 6; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**, one at Niagara Falls Nov. 16-29 (RA, AS, HA), possibly the same bird as was here last year; Bufflehead, 200 at Mayville Oct. 26; King Eider, one at Buffalo Harbor Nov. 15 (RA, MF); White-winged Scoter, one at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 26 (DC), the day after a bad storm and first here since 1965; Surf Scoter, one at Amity L. Oct. 15 and three at Dunkirk Harbor Nov. 3, only reports; Ruddy Duck, 130 at the SPA Res. near Lewiston Oct. 19 (HK, WK); Hooded Merganser, five, and Red-breasted Merganser, four, at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Both the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk were well reported, with singles of Sharpies from 11 locations and of Cooper's from 12. However, most observations were resident birds from Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties. Red-shouldered Hawks were scarce, with a total of but four, from Alfred and Farmersville Sta., and the prognosis for a Rough-legged year is poor so far, with singles at Stockton Nov. 1 (FR) and Lewiston Nov. 22 (RA+) the only reports. Other raptor notes include: **BALD EAGLE**, one (subadult-tagged) at Iroquois NWR Sept. 7 (AM, WM); Marsh Hawk, seven on the ACC, plus four singles from scattered locations; Osprey, three on the ACC, singles late in Amity Twp. Oct. 30 (DB, LB), and at Olean Nov. 2 (FM *fide* SE), as well as nine other birds, total, in eight areas; and Am. Kestrel, 22 on the ACC but few other reports. The only Ring-necked Pheasants called to our attention were all from Allegany Co. where they are seldom seen: two on the ACC, two in Hume Twp. and singles at Belfast and in Alma Twp. A **YELLOW RAIL** was identified at Tonawanda WMA Oct. 24 (JM), two Com. Gallinules were seen in Hume Twp. Sept. 13 (KP) and a fine concentration of 800 Am. Coots was estimated at Mayville Oct. 26 (FR). Though poor, the shorebird flight did have a few high spots: Am. Golden Plover, 35 at Clarence Sept. 28 (AM, WM); Ruddy Turnstone, 12—an excellent number—at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 15 (AS, ARC); Purple Sandpiper, four at Niagara Falls Nov. 16 (HK, WK); Pectoral Sandpiper, up to five in Hume Twp. Sept. 13-30 (KP) and two at Iroquois NWR Oct. 26 (Christensen); Dunlin, ten, total, from four Buffalo-Niagara R. areas; and **RED PHALAROPE**, one, over two weeks early, at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 30 (RA, AS+). Notable larid reports include: Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoideus kumlieni*), one of each at Niagara Falls Nov. 16 (FR, AS+) and another of the latter over the Niagara R. south of Lewiston Nov. 23 (HK, WK). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, one over the Niagara R. at the SPA lookout near Lewiston Nov. 10 and 30 (HA); Franklin's Gull, one at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 1 and 28 (RA+); Bonaparte's Gull, max 20,000 over the Niagara R. Nov. 30 (HA); Little Gull, seven birds, total, from Buffalo-Niagara R. areas; Forster's Tern, max ten at LaSalle Pk., Buffalo, Sept. 1 and 27 and Oct. 19 and 21 (RA+) and two at Bird Island Sept. 15 (AS, ARC); Com. Tern, 600 at Niagara Falls Oct. 12 (AS); Caspian Tern, one at Tiffit Farm NP Sept. 14 (RA+); and Black Tern, none.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** The only cuckoo report was a single Black-billed banded at Farmersville Sta. Sept. 18 and seen again Sept. 28 (DC). Requests for information on Screech Owls brought only two responses: one bird at Stannards Sept. 10 (HG *fide* EL) and four in the Dunkirk-Fredonia area early in the quarter (MVJ); two of these little owls were tallied on the ACC. No flight of the Com. Nighthawk was evident but four areas reported a total of six of the species. While Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce, with one on the ACC and six totaled from four locations, reports of Hairy Woodpeckers were good with 14 counted from eight spots in addition to 22 on the ACC.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** Several locations reported one to two E. Phoebe's until one departed from Farmersville Sta. Nov. 5 (DC), the last day, and two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were spotted in Birdsall Twp. Sept. 28 (Clancy). An Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared at Amity L. Sept. 8 (VP) but the one banded at Fredonia Oct. 24 (MVJ) was nearly

six weeks late! 15 Horned Larks (subspecies?) were counted on the ACC and two were found in Hume Oct. 20 (KP). A **COMMON RAVEN** was watched at Petrolia, Allegany Co., Sept. 22 and 24 (DH) and another was near Allegany, Cattaraugus Co., Nov. 3 (SE); since 1976 three other sightings have occurred within a two mile radius of the latter location, about a mile north of the Pennsylvania line (SE). The only reports of the Tufted Titmouse were two on the ACC plus seven others, total, all from four locations outside Allegany Co. Five areas boasted single Winter Wrens and the Carolina Wren is doing better too, with a total of ten birds counted from seven widespread areas. Single Mockingbirds were seen at Belmont Oct. 17 and Nov. 3 (DB, LB), in Porter Nov. 16 (AS) and at Eggertsville Nov. 19 (AM, WM). Several observers mentioned nearly "missing" the thrush flight. A few highlights, however, include: Am. Robin, max 200 at Forest Lawn Oct. 5 (JT+), near Alfred Oct. 29 (EB) and in the Town of Charlotte Nov. 11 (JT+); **VARIED THRUSH**, one, well observed, scratching among leaves on the concrete slab below the Eaton's feeder, 10-Mile Rd., Carrollton Twp., Cattaraugus Co., Nov. 6 (SE); and E. Bluebird, 70 on the ACC, max 32 at Amity L. Oct. 6 (VP) and reports from 11 other areas totaling 41 birds. The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher noted was one at Belmont Sept. 2 (DB, LB). Both the Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were widely reported; a regional record 150 Golden-crowned were estimated at Forest Lawn, Buffalo, Oct. 5 (JT+), and two Ruby-crowned arrived early near Alfred Sept. 5 (CK). Although several areas noted flocks of 100 or more Cedar Waxwings, Wales beat them all with 300 on Oct. 30 (Rosche). The only shrike found was a Northern at Farmersville Sta. Nov. 26 (DC).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Elma Sept. 8 (DD), a Red-eyed Vireo, last for the season, was banded at Fredonia Oct. 26 (MVJ), and the only Philadelphia Vireo for the fall was banded at Alfred Sta. Sept. 9 (EB). High notes of the warbler flight include: Tennessee Warbler, 31 banded at Alfred Sta. during Sept. and Oct. (EB) plus five areas reporting one to three birds; Orange-crowned Warbler, one banded near Alfred Sta. Oct. 7 (EB) and another seen at Jamestown Oct. 21 (Beal); Nashville Warbler, good numbers with one banded at Alfred Sta. Nov. 5 (EB) over two weeks late; No. Parula, one at Bond's L. Oct. 5 (HK, WK); Cape May Warbler, 14, total, from three areas; Yellow-rumped Warbler, almost none at Farmersville Sta. (DC) or Fredonia (MVJ), but 88 banded at Alfred Sta. during Sept. and Oct. (EB), exemplifying the spottiness of the migration. Cerulean Warbler, none; Bay-breasted Warbler, "dozens" routinely in Fredonia thru early Oct. (MVJ), but only one to three noted from each of four other locations; Blackpoll Warbler, one near Alfred Sept. 7 (CK) and four banded at Alfred Sta. in Sept. (EB)—only reports; **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one, late, still on nesting grounds in Amity Twp. Sept. 2 (VP); Palm Warbler, one banded at Farmersville Sta. Sept. 27 (DC), five banded at Alfred Sta. Oct. 5-7 (EB) and one near Alfred irregularly Oct. 9-15 (CK); No. Waterthrush, three banded at Farmersville Sta. in Sept. (DC), one at Lewiston Oct. 13 (HK, WK), and one nearly three weeks late at Darien Center Nov. 6 (Harper); Connecticut Warbler, one at Cuba Sept. 25 (SB); Yellow-breasted Chat, none; and Wilson's Warbler, six noted, total, from five areas.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** An estimated 3,300 Red-winged Blackbirds passed over Amity L. Oct. 29 (VP) and highest counts of the strong Rusty Blackbird flight were 100 at Beaver Meadow EEC Oct. 18 (Becker) and 125 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30 (SB). Flocks of 500 Com. Grackles were seen at Alfred Oct. 7 (CK) and at Elma Oct. 31 (Forsberg). Two Evening Grosbeaks arrived for the ACC with flocks of up to 50 soon regular at feeders; banded during Nov. were 51 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 23 at Alfred Sta. (EB). The House Finch continues to prosper, taking advantage of feeders, but moving out of the hills with onset of harsher weather; 138 appeared on the ACC, Regional max was 30 at Eggertsville during Nov. (AM, WM) and over 100 were banded at Fredonia during this quarter (MVJ). A Pine Grosbeak was seen in the Town of Porter Nov. 16 (RA+), and four to 27 Com. Redpolls came to Orchard Park Nov. 3-18 (Saville). 22 Pine Siskins in Wellsville Oct. 9 (VP) were first for the season while of very few other reports, max was 30 in the Town of Newfane Nov. 28 (Rosche+). Am. Goldfinches were around in good numbers with bandings during the period:

35 at Farmersville Sta. (DC), 111 at Alfred Sta. (EB) and nearly 200 at Fredonia, with some 92% of the last, hatch-year birds (MVJ). Noteworthy sparrows include: Vesper Sparrow, one on the ACC, six in Angelica Sept. 18 and two at Friendship Oct. 9—only reports; an albinistic Dark-eyed Junco at Amity L. Oct. 10-16 (VP); Tree Sparrow: two, early, on the ACC; Fox Sparrow, singles at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 21 and Nov. 26-29 (DC) and at Wales Oct. 27 (Rosche); Lincoln's Sparrow: one irregularly at Amity L. Sept. 14-Oct. 17 (VP), and singles banded at Alfred Sta. Oct. 5 (EB) and at Fredonia Sept. 19 and Oct. 4 (MVJ). Two Lapland Longspurs visited the yard of the Air Preheater plant in Wellsville Nov. 11 and were well described by two observers (NI, DN). Highest Regional count of Snow Buntings was 100± near Arcade Nov. 12 (DC).

*Addenda* for spring 1980: On the Regional Bird Census, May 18, directed by BOS, of special interest are: 43 Com. Loons (second highest ever), an Orange-crowned Warbler, ten Cerulean Warblers, six PRAIRIE WARBLERS (highest ever), one KENTUCKY WARBLER (by SE), three Yellow-breasted Chats, 124 House Finches (highest ever), six Grasshopper Sparrows, seven Henslow's Sparrows and six Lincoln's Sparrows. A year-old male SUMMER TANAGER was banded and released at Fredonia May 10 (MVJ)—notably rare here.

*Addendum* for summer 1980: A nest of the ORCHARD ORIOLE was discovered in East Aurora June 17 and fledged at least one yg., and during the same month two nests of the PROTHONOTARY WARBLER were found at the Iroquois NWR (JT).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Following a beautiful late summer, lingering through its calendar end, fall provided a continuous seesaw, warm to cool, sunny to showers, averaging below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. September temperatures averaged 1.4° F. (0.8° C) above normal with rainfall at 3.57" (9.1 cm), 1.24" (3.1 cm) above normal. October demonstrated our usual averaging problem with temperatures averaging 3.5° F. (2.0° C) below normal and rainfall at 3.73" (9.5 cm), 1.11" (2.8 cm) above normal. Looking in more detail we find that most days were sunny and dry, there were no days below freezing before the 24th and only two after, and officially 2.94" (7.4 cm) (much more unofficially in local areas) of the rain fell in one 24-hour period on Oct. 24-25. November continued cool at 1.7° F. (0.9° C) below normal with precipitation a bit below normal at 2.52" (6.4 cm). The first snowfall of any consequence occurred Nov. 18 at 4-6" (10-15 cm) depending on locale. The first general freeze of larger ponds was noted on the 23rd, culminating a ten day period with nights below freezing.

The bird finding pace slowed a little in September with a jaeger reported as the only new species for the Region for the year. There were many days, following frontal passages, when even casual observers could not fail to note the migrants flitting through the trees in the early mornings. Variety reported was good. However, few exceptional counts of passerine migrants were recorded.



After the first of October, the wild year was back to "normal," with many interesting records. A concentrated lake watch at Hamlin Beach State Park produced jaeger records on virtually all days when weather conditions seemed favorable. This effort also revealed a near absence of Canada Goose and Brant, the early appearance of large numbers of Pine Siskin and Snow Bunting, a visit by a Gannet, and, most interestingly, the continued presence of a Common Raven, first sighted in late August and seen sporadically near the western edge of the park through mid-November. The limited patience of a few, who wandered into the pine woods area of the park, led to good records of several passerine migrants and to the discovery of the first three-toed woodpecker verified in the Region in 14 years. November brought an increase in the winter finches with all species reported except Hoary Redpoll. All the other "rare-but-regular" visitors expected in late fall were also recorded. Reports of the various rarities sent birders scurrying back and forth across the lakeshore providing excellent coverage. While one may dispute the motives or utility of listing, there seems to be nothing quite like a good sighting or two to provide a given locale with intensive coverage over at least a brief time span. If this locale is fortuitously located far from the homes of most birders, the areas between receive a good portion of incidental coverage as the birders travel to and fro.

It is interesting to speculate on the causal relationships leading to the occurrence of groups of unusual sightings on the same or very close dates, particularly as in this October. Obvious relationships are often not apparent.

Among the potential indicators of long-term trends this season were: a very low loon flight, few herons, very few Canada Geese, Snow Geese, or Brant, ducks fair to good with puddle ducks mostly moving on early and divers good except for Redhead and Canvasback, White-winged Scoter very abundant again, shore-bird habitat along the lakeshore again very poor due to high water levels until late September when the level dropped rapidly after most shorebirds had long since passed, gull numbers generally lower than during the past few fall seasons, the long stay of a raven, still low Winter Wren counts, Carolina Wren spreading out again, few Mockingbirds, good thrush counts, including E. Bluebird south of Rochester, both kinglets back to normal or above, low numbers reported for virtually all vireos and warblers, the presence of a Boat-tailed Grackle, winter finches on an odd year—a three year gap this time instead of the usual two years (John M. C. Peterson suggested looking up recent literature correlating these invasions with the sunspot cycle, which would make a periodic three year gap "expected"), and large numbers of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows and Snow Buntings.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Gannet, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Ruff, Laughing Gull, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Bohemian Waxwing, Kentucky Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park, D—Durand-Eastman Park, H—Hamlin Beach State Park, IBO—Irondequoit Bay Outlet, IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece, OB—Oklahoma Beach, Webster, and WL—west lakeshore.

Observers: Shirley Bidleman, Nancy Boudrie, Jean Browning, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Claridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Frederick Davis, Gertrude Davis,

Richard DeCoster, Frank & Robert Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Harold Griffin, Kevin Griffith, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Dick Mather, Mike McKeon, Roger McKeon, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Gordon Meade, Ann Miranian, Pat & Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Mike & Tom Peter, Robert Pickering, P.O.S. (James Lenhard, Doug Keim, Allan, Brian, Dan, David & Grace Strong), Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Dominic Sherony, D. Silver, Sharon & Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Earl Wallace, Ann Watson, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Alice Wood, and Peter Zachmann.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Loons were generally quite low this fall. A good count was Red-throated Loon: 256 max Webster Park Nov. 29, with many other observers only about 5 miles west recording no movement. Several possible Arctic Loons were reported, all lacking completely convincing details. The regular grebes were all present in modest numbers. Interesting were: **EARED GREBE:** one Buck Pond Nov. 1 (WLI, MAS, mob); and **Pied-billed Grebe:** 24 max Mendon Ponds Oct. 22, many for recent years. **GANNET:** one imm. H Oct. 6-7 (NB, CC, JB, AC, mob), was exciting; but a second, differently marked imm. BB Oct. 12 (AK) was incredible. Double-crested Cormorants were present in small numbers through the period, but 22 H Oct. 15, was an exceptional count. Among the herons, Great Blue dropped to very low numbers early; Great Egret: one Round Pond Oct. 15, was late; **SNOWY EGRET:** one BB Oct. 13 (KG), was unusual anytime; and Am. Bittern: one H Nov. 6, was late. A **GLOSSY IBIS:** Buck Pond-BB Oct. 11-21 (GOS, mob), was very late. Waterfowl were generally unexciting. All regularly occurring species were represented, mostly in normal to slightly low numbers. Most moved through relatively quickly. Whistling Swan appeared in Nov. with 21 Sodus Bay Nov. 29 the max. Canada Goose was very scarce. Brant was virtually absent: max 75 Wayne Co. Oct. 16. The most interesting records among the ducks were: No. Shoveler: one Sodus Bay Nov. 29, late; Greater Scaup: max 4,000 WL Nov. 16; Oldsquaw: max 2,000+ OB Nov. 2, 27; King Eider: one imm. Webster Park Oct. 18 (AK); one imm male H Nov. 1 (ST, mob); and one female Webster Park Nov. 16 (AK); Harlequin Duck: one female OB Nov. 27-28 (MD, mob); and one imm. male OB Nov. 29 thru; White-winged Scoter: max 5,000+ East Lakeshore Nov. 23; Black Scoter: two Sept. 28, early; and Red-breasted Merganser: max 10,000+ Lake Ontario off Greece Nov. 2, a typical peak for migration.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** The fall raptor flight provided a number of interesting records. Among them: Turkey Vulture: 51 Scottsville Oct. 17 (FDo), a very large number; Goshawk: one imm. Webster Oct. 17; one imm. Webster Oct. 24; and one imm. D Nov.; Sharp-shinned Hawk/Cooper's Hawk about 4/1; Broad-winged Hawk: one ad. Fairport Oct. 26 (DSH), late; Rough-legged Hawk: max 35+ (1 hr.) H Nov. 9; and 26 H Nov. 28-29, all in one field with no other *buteos* found in eight hrs. of birding on the former date; **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one H Oct. 14 (KD, mob); Bald Eagle: one juv. Webster Oct. 24 (JCz); and one subadult Webster Oct. 27 (JCz); Peregrine Falcon: one H Sept. 6 (TT); one imm. BB Oct. 6 (ST); one male BB-Buck Pond Oct. 11-12 (AK, ST); one female H Nov. 9 (MD, WS); and one Kendall Nov. 16 (RO); and eight Merlins scattered through the season. The marsh types received their usual lack of attention. Interesting were: Com. Gallinule: three Parma Nov. 14, late; and Am. Coot: max 600 Sodus Bay Nov. 2. Shorebird habitat was very poor until long after most species were long gone. While resulting numbers were low, variety was quite good with all expected species reported. Among the noteworthy records are: Black-bellied Plover: two BB thru Nov. 25, late; Ruddy Turnstone: one Greece Nov. 4, late; Red Knot: about seven individuals in total, Charlotte-BB Sept. 23-Oct. 9; Purple Sandpiper: one Pt. Breeze Nov. 3 (WLI); and one BB Nov. 18 (NH); Long-billed Dowitcher: one Northrup Creek Oct. 18-23 (MD, RS, mob); Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one to eight H Sept. 1-8 (mob); and one Webster Sept. 14 (RS, mob); **RUFF:** one H Oct. 22 (NH); Red Phalarope: one IBO Nov. 12 (RS,



mob); and one BB Nov. 14 (NH, RL); and No. Phalarope: nine Greece Oct. 27 (KG); and one OB Nov. 22-23 (WLi, mob). Jaeger numbers were probably typical of fall on central Lake Ontario. Any day with favorable winds produced at least a few birds. The totals recorded are: Parasitic Jaeger: 19; Pomarine Jaeger: 7; and jaeger sp.: 7, with dates ranging Sept. 26-Nov. 11 and peak locations being Hamlin Beach State Park and Sodus Bay. Pomarine records were mainly in Nov. Gull numbers never approached the peak counts of last year. Once again, variety was good. White-winged gulls were nearly absent, represented only by Glaucous Gull: one 2nd yr. Putneyville Nov. 1. Other good records were: **LAUGHING GULL**: one imm BB Oct. 4 (ST); Franklin's Gull: one imm Greece Oct. 1-15 (mob); Little Gull: max 25 IBO-D Nov. 22; **SABINE'S GULL**: two ad. Sodus Bay Nov. 30 (M & TT); and **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm Greece Oct. 15 (KG, RP); one ad. Greece Oct. 20 (RS); one imm D Nov. 11 (MD, KG); and one imm D Nov. 15 (ST, AK). The fall terns were low. Com. Tern: max 35 BB Sept. 6, was the peak; and two very late birds were: Com. Tern: one BB Nov. 10-11 (mob); and Forster's Tern: one BB Nov. 10-15 (mob).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: As usual, this grouping provided little excitement. A Black-billed Cuckoo: Penfield Oct. 31, was late. A small Snowy Owl invasion was noted with at least four individuals seen along the West Lakeshore Nov. 15-28. A Short-eared Owl: Hogan Pt. Oct. 18, was early; two other singles appeared in Nov. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: D Nov. 15, was late, but in an area where they have wintered before. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: one female H Oct. 11-12 (SH, mob), was the first local record since the major invasion after the Am. Elm die-off. Evidence of its feeding on trees scattered through a densely wooded area of the park indicated that its stay may have been much longer than these two days.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**: The fall flycatcher passage provided no surprises. Expected species were observed with departure dates average to a bit early. Late were E. Phoebe: two IC Nov. 2. Swallows provided two late dates: Tree Swallow: one Northrup Creek Nov. 13; and one Buck Pond Nov. 1. A most curious event this season was the continued presence of a **COMMON RAVEN** in Hamlin Beach S.P. The bird first appeared in Aug. and was seen or heard off and on thru mid-Nov. This bird was very secretive, usually keeping to a wooded area on a lake bluff near the west edge of the park. When in the open, it was mobbed by everything, especially crows. A second Common Raven was also seen at Greece Oct. 12 (WLi). Black-capped Chickadees staged a large, late flight: peak 25/min. WL Nov. 6 (NH, WLi), continuing thru Nov. 9. Wrens were typical except that Winter Wren continued low. Carolina Wren has repopulated several locations where they were extirpated by the three hard winters thru 1978-79. Gray Catbird starts the winter with four Nov. birds scattered across the Rochester area. Less common that late was Brown Thrasher: one Gates Nov. 2-24. An early Oct. thrush movement was noted in single location counts of Hermit Thrush: 40 H Oct. 4; and Swainson's Thrush: 25 IC Oct. 5. A late Swainson's Thrush was at Greece Nov. 2. A good indication of nesting success was E. Bluebird: 25 Avon Oct. 18 (AC). Both kinglets were noted in excellent numbers. A good peak count was Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 200 WL Oct. 29 (NH). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: joined the winter arrivals with: two H Nov. 21 (WLi); and one Hilton Nov. 23 (MD, mob). The first No. Shrike was one at Northrup Creek Nov. 2, with several more scattered reports thru the area during the rest of Nov.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: This grouping showed good variety, but no exceptional counts. Most species had vanished by mid-Oct., but the first of Nov. brought a rash of late individuals. Some of the most interesting late records are: Philadelphia Vireo: one H Nov. 2 (DSH, RS); Warbling Vireo: one BB Oct. 4; Tennessee Warbler: one Conesus Lake Nov. 17 (CC, NB, EW); Orange-crowned Warbler: five reports of one to two birds, typical, in early Oct.; and one H Nov. 1; Nashville Warbler: one D Nov. 8 (R & SS); Magnolia Warbler: one IC Nov. 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler: one IC Oct. 14; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one BB Sept. 10 (CC); and one imm male BB Sept. 21 (JSk, KD); Connecticut Warbler: one Leroy Sept. 3 (CC);

Hooded Warbler: one male IC Nov. 1 (NH, mob); and Am. Redstart: one imm. Brighton Nov. 23, 26 (AWo).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: 60 BB Sept. 30 (FDo), was an impressive late count. The bird of the season was **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus major torreyi*): one male Greece Nov. 26 thru (MD, RS—photos, DSI, mob), a first Regional and upstate record. Details will be published in *The Kingbird*. The rest of the blackbird passage was not particularly noteworthy for dates or numbers except for Com. Grackle: 10,000+ Webster Oct. 11 (WLI, MAS). Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were: one female D Nov. 9; and one imm male Webster Nov. 13. The winter finches were all reported in at least small numbers. The single Hoary Redpoll report was not adequately documented. Among the more interesting records were: Pine Grosbeak: three D Nov. 8, first report; Com. Redpoll: 70 Webster Nov. 3 (CC, mob), early; Pine Siskin: 300+ WL Oct. 11, much larger counts could have been obtained with dedication; Red Crossbill: two to six D Nov. 15 thru; and White-winged Crossbill: 13 IC Nov. 29, first. Scattered late Rufous-sided Towhees were reported thru Nov. A **DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO**: OB Nov. 27 (CC, NM, FDa), was well described. Sparrows were typical in both dates and numbers except for unusually large flocks of both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, unfortunately not enumerated by any of the reporters. A very early Lapland Longspur was: one Webster Sept. 13 (WLI), one of very few for the season. Snow Bunting appeared in good numbers early: 200 H Oct. 19; and 500 Greece Nov. 7 (NH).

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Summer weather, warm and dry, extended well into September. October turned cold, below normal, with the first hard freeze October 10th. Rainfall was normal but most of it came late in the month. November was cool and dry with even less sunshine than the small amount which is normal. November 17th and 18th brought five to ten inches of snow.

This quarter's report is being compiled without the benefit of the usual fine report from the Elmira area.

There were very few comments on "waves" of migrants. Hilfiker did mention a good movement of vireos and warblers along the east side of Seneca Lake September 4th. The Cornell Ornithology Class found a movement of hawks on their trip to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on October 7th. Confer noted many White-throated Sparrows moving through the Ithaca area September 30th to October 5th.

The berry and seed crop was good, but cones were scarce.

Seasonal positives: 1) the highest number of white herons, though still very low, in a number of years, 2) a raft of 9,000 Redheads and 700 Canvasbacks on Cayuga Lake, 3) hawk numbers are inching slowly upward for most of the crash species; fair fall incursion of Rough-legs, 4) with some lowering of water levels at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge late in the migratory season, there was

an increase in shorebird numbers, 5) Ruffed Grouse on the upswing, 6) Fish Crows remain at Ithaca, 7) much improved numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches after last year's paucity, 8) Winter and Carolina Wrens and the kinglets which were decimated by recent severe winters are making a comeback, albeit slowly, 9) Eastern Bluebirds had a good year but, in view of the species up-and-down history, one's optimism must be tempered with caution, 10) winter finches, which have arrived to date in appreciable numbers, are Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin, 11) after some horrendous TV tower kills at Elmira in recent years, it is almost unbelievable that the total count for this year from Aug. 29 to Oct. 15 was only 45 birds with a peak of 17 birds on Sept. 13.

Seasonal negatives: 1) few bittern reports, 2) Ring-necked Pheasants still very low, 3) poor swallow migration other than Tree and Barn, 4) the Monterey Common Ravens went unreported—no birds or just no reports?, 5) only two Warbling Vireo reports; again, no birds or no reports?, 6) a poor sparrow migration in general. The meadow sparrows were scarce, not a single Vesper reported. Only a few small groups of Tree Sparrows and no sizeable flocks. White-crowns below normal. The sparrows seemed to leave early. Perhaps the cold weather of Oct. moved them through quickly, as they were absent after mid-Oct. from the hedgerows that normally teem with them.

Abbreviations: Co—County; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Schy—Schuyler; Sem—weekly Laboratory of Ornithology seminar; Sen—Seneca; SP—State Park.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning; Vernon Dewey (MNWR); Bernice Hilfiker; Wilfred Howard; Herbert & Polly Keating; Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan); Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: reported from Keuka, Sen. and Cay. L. with a max of 15 flying over Watkins Glen Nov. 8. Red-necked Grebe: no reports. Horned Grebe: scarce on Keuka L, relatively few on Cay. L but many on Sen. L last of Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: more than usual during Sept. at Ithaca and MNWR with up to nine, mostly imm., at MNWR. Great Blue Heron: widely reported. Cattle Egret: one S. Danby Sept. 11 (Glenn Grossman). Great Egret: regular at MNWR to Oct. 7 with ten on Sept. 11 the best number since 1975. SNOWY EGRET: the three at MNWR reported in Aug. continued until Sept. 5. This equals the record number of Sept. 4, 1970. Black-crowned Night Heron: two imm at Ithaca in early Sept. Least Bittern: none reported. Am. Bittern: three MNWR reports in Sept. and Oct. and one at Watkins Glen Oct. 10. Brant: one with Canada Geese Sen. L SP Oct. 24.

The following waterfowl numbers were furnished by the MNWR personnel:

Geese					
Snow (inc. blue morph)	50	Oct. 30	No. Shoveler	5,000	Oct. 29
Canada	45,000	Oct. 11	Wood Duck	700	Sept. 15
Ducks					
			Redhead	75	Oct. 29
Mallard	40,000	Nov. 1	Ring-necked Duck	100	Oct. 31
Black	12,000	Oct. 29	Canvasback	30	Oct. 31
Gadwall	3,000	Oct. 29	Bufflehead	25	Nov. 10
Pintail	1,000	Oct. 29	Ruddy Duck	50	Oct. 22
Green-winged Teal	8,000	Oct. 29	Hooded Merganser	150	Nov. 28
Blue-winged Teal	200	Oct. 31	Common Merganser	250	Nov. 28
Am. Wigeon	10,000	Oct. 31	Red-breasted Merganser	70	Nov. 28



Redhead: 500 Keuka L; 9,000 Union Springs Nov. 22 (JC). Canvasback: 700 Union Springs Nov. 22 (JC). Greater Scaup: five MNWR Nov. 22. Oldsquaw: 30 Sen. L Nov. 15. White-winged Scoter: two Sen. L Nov. 22 (BH).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: more than the usual number of sightings up to Oct. 19 with a max of 15 at MNWR Oct. 5. Goshawk: imm Montour Falls Nov. 14. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported on seven Sem. Cooper's Hawks reported at nine Sem. Both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned were reported hanging around feeders and picking off small birds. Red-shouldered Hawk: the only report was at the Sept. 15 Sem. Broad-winged Hawk: one MNWR Sept. 5 and two Ithaca early Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: earliest bird was at Ithaca Sept. 26. Numerous widespread reports of both light and dark phase birds in Nov. Bald Eagle: an ad. and an imm. at Enfield Sept. 14; the marked birds which were hacked at MNWR this summer were often seen there but an unmarked imm was present Nov. 6. Marsh Hawk: one or two seen occasionally at MNWR; three Nov. sightings at Watkins Glen; reported at 5 Sem. Osprey: the nesting pair and their two young were last seen at MNWR Sept. 26; one at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, Sept. 7 and 15. Peregrine: one at MNWR Sept. 28-Oct. 6 (P. Trail WB *et al.*). Merlin: no reports. Am. Kestrel: 15 on a trip around Cay L. (JC). Ruffed Grouse: numerous widespread reports would indicate an upswing in the population. Ring-necked Pheasant: perhaps a little improvement in this nearly extirpated species. Turkey: population up in the Penn Yan area; reported at four Sem. Am. Coot: 500 on Cay L and at MNWR Oct. 5. The following shorebird reports are from MNWR unless otherwise indicated: Killdeer: max 110 Sept. 22. Am. Golden Plover: up to eight Sept. 24-Oct. 5. Black-bellied Plover: max 18 Oct. 9 and last eight Oct. 31. Ruddy Turnstone: one Reeder's Creek, Sen. Co. Sept. 6; Ithaca Sept. 9; one MNWR Sept. 23-29. Spotted Sandpiper: one late bird Sept. 28. Greater Yellowlegs: up to five thru Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 25 Sept. 22. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 100 Sept. 24. Baird's Sandpiper: two Oct. 7 (Cornell Ornithology Class). Short-billed Dowitcher: 13 May's Point north of MNWR Oct. 20. Long-billed Dowitcher: four May's Point Oct. 20. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 56 Oct. 3; one late bird May's Point Nov. 7. Sanderling: Ithaca Sept. 5; six Sept. 22 & 24; two Oct. 7 late. Com. Tern: imm Ithaca Sept. 5.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Barn Owl: none reported. Screech Owl: reported from Watkins Glen and on six Sem. Great Horned Owl: found at four locations Schy Co. and one in Sen. Co; reported at seven Sem. Barred Owl: reported at Sem. Oct. 6 & 20. Long-eared Owl: no reports. Short-eared Owl: no reports. Saw-whet Owl: one calling during Nov. at Reading Center. Com. Nighthawk: Sem. Sept. 15. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Clyde Sept. 3; one Reeder's Creek Sept. 21; reported at Sem. Sept. 22. Com. Flicker: very common Ithaca area early Oct.; good numbers Schy Co. Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Odessa; Clyde to Oct. 1; imm Phelps Nov. 21. Hairy Woodpecker: there were no reports of this common species or of its cousin, the Downy, probably because it is so common and widespread that reporters just pass over it as not being noteworthy.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** E. Phoebe: last Ithaca Oct. 11. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Ithaca early Sept. (JC). Tree Swallow: thousands at MNWR Sept. 24; departed early with no reports after Oct. 5. Rough-winged Swallow: 14 late birds May's Point Oct. 20. Com. Crow: flocks of up to 1,000 birds around the fields and woods west of Watkins Glen. Fish Crow: the Ithaca birds were seen to the end of the period. Black-capped Chickadee: JB counted 30 in a one-hour hike; BH comments "everywhere." Red-breasted Nuthatch: after being very scarce a year ago they are being widely reported often at feeders. Winter Wren: reported at three Sem. and one at Arnot Forest Sept. 22; still scarce but perhaps gaining a bit. Carolina Wren: still low after their recent decimation. At two Ithaca locations and one feeder in Geneva. Mockingbird: more reports especially in the Ithaca area. Am. Robin: an amazing 5,000 at MNWR from 7:30 to 8:00 A.M. Nov. 7. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Ithaca Oct. 12. E. Bluebird: the encouraging reports of last spring and summer continued on through the fall. In Tompkins Co. there were 40 birds sighted. There were three at Clyde, two reports from Schy Co. and "more reports than usual" in the Penn Yan area. Golden-

crowned Kinglet: while still below normal with no large flocks reported, all reporters agreed that the species was making a comeback with numerous widespread reports of a few individuals. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: situation similar to the Golden-crowned with better numbers than last year. Cedar Waxwing: in the Ithaca area these wanderers were scarce until Nov. when flocks up to 300 birds appeared. No. Shrike: no reports.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** for these species the number immediately following the species name is the number of Sem. at which the species was reported during the period. Vireos: White-eyed: one banded Penn Yan Oct. 15 (ML). Yellow-throated: one Owasco L Sept. 20. Solitary: four Sem. Red-eyed: four Sem. Philadelphia: three Sem; Ithaca Sept. 2, 7, 13; Owasco L Sept. 20; Sapsucker Woods Sept. 28. Warbling: Ithaca Sept. 13 and Clyde Sept. 9 only reports. Warblers: Black-and-white: two Sem.; one Owasco L Sept. 20. Blue-winged: Ithaca Sept. 2-7. Tennessee: four Sem.; one Clyde Oct. 4. Orange-crowned: one Ithaca Sept. 15 (M. Shepherd); one Clyde Oct. 4 (WB). Nashville: two Sem.; a late juvenal Stewart Park, Ithaca, Nov. 2. No. Parula: one Sem. Yellow: one Clyde Sept. 3 only report. Magnolia: two Sem. Cape May: four Sem.; reportedly more common than usual at Ithaca during Sept. Black-throated Blue: one Sem. Yellow-rumped: seven Sem. Black-throated Green: four Sem. Blackburnian: two Sem. Chestnut-sided: two Sem. Bay-breasted: two Sem. Blackpoll: one Sem. Palm: one Sem. Ovenbird: two Sem.; one Reeder's Creek Sept. 5; one MNWR Oct. 6 late. Com. Yellowthroat: four Sem. Wilson's: two Sem. Canada: two Sem. Am. Redstart: two Sem.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** E. Meadowlark: up to 30 in one day in early fall at Ithaca but relatively scarce in the northern part of the Region. No. Oriole: one Penn Yan Nov. 19. Cardinal: fledgling being fed at Ithaca Oct. 2. Evening Grosbeak: first sightings were in late Sept. with reports from Watkins Glen, Ithaca, Seneca Falls, Phelps, Wayland, Penn Yan; mostly small numbers but the Confer feeder at Brooktondale had up to 75 in Nov. Purple Finch: reported through the period; JC had up to 24 at his feeder in late Oct. until the Evening Grosbeaks came in. House Finch: continues to increase and spread. Pine Siskin: reported from Watkins Glen, Penn Yan, Ithaca, Phelps. Savannah Sparrow: reported at three Sem. Vesper Sparrow: no reports. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: one Ithaca Nov. 24 (D. Gray). Tree Sparrow: scarce again this year up to the end of the period. Lincoln's Sparrow: one killed at the Elmira TV tower; one Clyde Sept. 16 (WB). Snow Bunting: first bird at W. Danby Oct. 24 and thereafter reported from MNWR, Phelps, Watkins Glen and a large flock at Fayette Nov. 15.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Temperatures averaged somewhat below normal in September and October, although there was a warm spell as October changed to November. Precipitation was also below normal. An early snow storm November 10 and approximately six inches of snow November 17-18, seemed to lend weight to the many dire predictions of a severe winter.

The goose migration started September 27, which was not surprising, but the very large numbers in the first week or ten days of that migration was surprising. As usual in this Region, the volume of reports of other migrating waterfowl and shorebirds was too small to justify any generalizations. Even coverage of the



small land bird migration was on the light side, but there was a flurry of warbler reports at Oneonta September 18. At Binghamton, banding totals at an Operation Recovery station peaked September 1 and 13 and October 19, with catbirds and warblers dominating the first two peaks and chickadees, Hermit Thrushes, kinglets and White-throated Sparrows the third.

Two October Rough-legged Hawk reports and a November Snowy Owl report brought hope of a good winter raptor year. Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were the only winter finches reported by the end of the period and their numbers were not particularly impressive.

Rarities for the season include a Little Blue Heron, a Cattle Egret, a Varied Thrush, a Bohemian Waxwing and an "Oregon" Junco.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell (D, JB), Michael Bennett, Reynolds Bennett, Bill Breidinger (BB), Clarence Buel (CB), Gail Corderman, Anna & Marilyn Davis (A, MD), Louise Dean (LD), Mary Dobinsky (MD), Sadie Dorber, Marion Ennis (ME), Polly & Earl Getkin (P, EG), John Gustafson (JG), Margaret Layton, Saul Levin (SL), Harriet Marsi (HM), Bud & Evelyn Mead (B, EM), Cathy Milliken, Francis O'Leary, Robert Pantle, Booth Perkins (BP), Kay Perkins (KP), Peter Petokas (PP), Beverly Prince, Mary Sheffield (MS), Robert Sheffield, Bill Toner (BT), Cora Wellman, Anne Whitaker, Connie Wilkins, Beryl & Tom Wilson, Kathryn Wilson (KW) and Irene & Gerald Wright.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: reported at Whitney Point Oct. 18 and Nov. 15, but no others. Horned Grebe: Whitney Point Nov. 1 & 2, but that's all. Pied-billed Grebe: one Whitney Point Sept. 28 and again Nov. 1; four at Preble, in Cortland Co., Oct. 14. Great Blue Heron: the usual fairly frequent scattered reports of one or two flying over all period. Green Heron: Oct. 5 Upper Lisle, the last date. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one report, without details, from Owego Oct. 20 (LD). **CATTLE EGRET**: one among cows at a Milford farm for about a week, last seen Nov. 9 just before Nov. 10 snowstorm (CB, *fide* KW and four other observers). Am. Bittern: one Upper Lisle Sept. 7 (MS) and one Preble Oct. 19 (PP), the only reports all year. Canada Goose: many flocks passing over Sept. 27, the first fall date; heavy flights again the weekend of Oct. 4-5; flights continuing until Nov. 18. Black Duck: only a half-dozen or so reports of one to two birds each, but from all reporting areas. Green-winged Teal: one at Portlandville Sept. 8 & 9, the only one reported. Blue-winged Teal: one Sept. 18 Preble, the last date; best count eight Portlandville Sept. 9. Am. Wigeon: five Oxford Oct. 19 and again Oct. 26 (A, MD), the only reports. Wood Duck: an undated Oct. report from Owego the only one after Sept. 20. Ring-necked Duck: two at Upper Little York Lake, in Cortland Co., Nov. 22 (PP) the only report. Four Lesser Scaup Oneonta Res. Oct. 10 and one scaup sp? Oct. 11 at Whitney Point. Com. Goldeneye: Nov. 22 Whitney Point, first fall date. Bufflehead: Oct. 27 Owego (LD). White-winged Scoter: 16 Whitney Point Oct. 11 (A, MD), the only ones. Black Scoter: 24 at Arnold's Lake, near Oneonta, Oct. 20 (MD, KW). Com. Scoter: Nov. 2 Owego (B, EM, D, JB). Hooded Merganser: Nov. 8 Whitney Point, first fall date. Com. Merganser: several Whitney Point Nov. 1. Red-breasted Merganser: Nov. 8 Whitney Point.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture: Oct. 22 Hillcrest, n. of Binghamton, the last date. Goshawk: the only reports from Owego in Sept. and Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: ten reports of one or two birds each. Cooper's Hawk: four reports. Red-tailed Hawk: 45 Oct. 22 and 18 on Nov. 2 migrating over Hillcrest; also the usual numerous scattered reports of one to six birds. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from Owego in Sept.; four Otisco Oct. 17 (BB). Broad-winged Hawk: 34 over Oneonta Sept. 16, last date except for undated Oct. report from Owego. Rough-legged Hawk: three Homer Oct. 4 (BT) plus an Owego report in Oct., but no others. Bald Eagle: one ad. Nov. 3 over Oneonta (KW). Marsh Hawk: 13 scattered reports of one to four birds each from Sept. 16-Nov. 8; seem to be coming back. Osprey:

one Oneonta Sept. 10 and one Chenango Bridge Nov. 1, with eleven intervening reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: nine reports. Turkey: 30 at Solon, in Cortland Co., Nov. 4 and 23 at Vestal Center Nov. 22; a half dozen other scattered reports of single birds. Am. Coot: one Preble Sept. 2; one Whitney Point Oct. 19; no others. Killdeer: Nov. 2. Hillcrest, last date. Greater Yellowlegs: four Portlandville-Oneonta Oct. 10, first; eight Goodale Lake Nov. 2, max and last; four other reports. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Portlandville Sept. 8 & 9. Herring Gull: only very occasional reports until Nov. 2, then in the usual winter ones and two seen daily; approximately 100 at Whitney Point Nov. 23.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: small numbers everywhere all season; max 50 Homer Nov. 18. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Portlandville-Milford Sept. 8, the only fall report. Screech Owl: a dozen reports from the whole Region. Snowy Owl: two Homer Nov. 18 (JG). Chimney Swift: Oct. 20 Owego (D, JB), the only one after Sept. 9. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Portlandville-Milford Sept. 13; also "occasionally thru Sept." at Oneonta. Red-headed Woodpecker: one report from Owego during Sept. (LD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: twenty some reports to Oct. 23, then only one Nov. 23 Choconut Center.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** Great Crested Flycatcher: four Sept. records, the last Sept. 23 Choconut Center. Eastern Phoebe: none after one Portlandville-Oneonta Oct. 20. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: six banded near Binghamton, the last Sept. 23 (HM). Least Flycatcher: last date Sept. 24, near Binghamton, E. Wood Pewee: last date Sept. 17, near Binghamton. Tree Swallow: Sept. 21 Apalachin, last date. Barn Swallow: one Portlandville-Milford Sept. 8, the only Sept. report. Blue Jay: abundant. Black-capped Chickadee: abundant. Tufted Titmouse: two Homer Oct. 20; also reports from Pt. Dickinson, Chenango Forks, Apalachin and Owego. White-breasted Nuthatch: numbers continue high. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only half a dozen scattered reports all fall. House Wren: Oct. 5 Chenango Forks, last date. Winter Wren: four banded near Binghamton, starting Sept. 30; three other reports, the last Oct. 27. Carolina Wren: persisting at Pt. Dickinson all fall (BP). Long-billed Marsh Wren: Upper Lisle Sept. 7 (MS); Owego Oct. 9 (D, JB). Mockingbird: eleven reports, all from the Owego-Triple Cities area. Gray Catbird: last date Oct. 19 Pt. Dickinson. Brown Thrasher: one Virgil Oct. 23, the last date; seem scarce. Am. Robin: ceased being an everyday bird around Nov. 4; large flocks (over 100) Sept. 28, Oct. 20-26 and Nov. 23, in various parts of the Region. **VARIED THRUSH:** one at Davenport, near Oneonta, Nov. 13, and for a few days before that (ME, *fide* DB), apparently sheltering in a pine forest adjacent to the house. Wood Thrush: Oct. 5 Chenango Forks and near Binghamton, the last date. Hermit Thrush: 19 banded near Binghamton Oct. 5 to 22 plus two reports from Hillcrest and one from Owego, all in Oct., but that's all. Swainson's Thrush: two Emmons, near Oneonta, Sept. 16 and one banded near Binghamton Oct. 9, the first and last dates; a total of 18 banded near Binghamton plus 13 other reports during that period. Veery: one banded Sept. 19 near Binghamton, the last date. Eastern Bluebird: ten different reports, of up to eight birds each, mostly in the first three weeks of Oct.; Nov. 3 Owego, the last fall date. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Sept. 27 Hillcrest, first fall date; almost daily reports from Oct. 5-Nov. 4. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sept. 24, Pt. Dickinson, to Nov. 4 Choconut Center; 20 banded at one site near Binghamton in Oct. and numerous other reports. Water Pipit: one at the Broome Co. Airport Oct. 19 (MS), but no others. Bohemian Waxwing: Vestal Nov. 28 (SL), one seen through a window in a leafless sycamore at a distance of 15-20 feet—white wing patches seen clearly, but not the red crissum. Cedar Waxwing: numerous all fall in flocks of up to 80 individuals.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Sept. 30 Chenango Forks, the last of five fall reports. Solitary Vireo: Hillcrest Oct. 19, the last of seven fall reports. Red-eyed Vireo: one banded Oct. 10 near Binghamton, last date. Philadelphia Vireo: four banded from Sept. 12-19 near Binghamton (HM); also reported from Owego in Sept. (LD). Warbling Vireo: one singing at Pt. Dickinson Sept. 8, last date. Black-and-white Warbler: Sept. 21 Pt. Dickinson. Golden-winged Warbler: one banded near Binghamton Sept. 2. Blue-winged War-

bler: one banded Sept. 19 near Binghamton—the last of three Sept. records, all in Broome Co. Tennessee Warbler: reported all during Sept.; one banded Oct. 18 near Binghamton the last of only two Oct. records. Nashville Warbler: Oct. 24 near Binghamton. Yellow Warbler: three Sept. reports, the last one the 26th Apalachin (P, EG); not usually seen after mid-Aug. Magnolia Warbler: 36 banded near Binghamton Sept. 1 to Oct. 1; Oct. 5 Upper Lisle, the last date. Cape May Warbler: 14 banded near Binghamton Sept. 15 to Oct. 1; two other Sept. reports. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Oct. 8 near Binghamton, the last date. Yellow-rumped Warbler: the usual numerous reports during Sept. and Oct.; Oct. 24 Owego the last date. Black-throated Green Warbler: common through Sept.; Oct. 9 Pt. Dickinson, the last of three Oct. reports. Blackburnian Warbler: four Sept. reports, the last Sept. 24 Pt. Dickinson. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one banded Sept. 17 near Binghamton, the last of seven Sept. reports. Bay-breasted Warbler: last date Sept. 27 Hillcrest. Blackpoll Warbler: six banded Sept. 13 near Binghamton; last date Oct. 1. Pine Warbler: one Homer Sept. 10 (BB), the only report. Palm Warbler: one banded Oct. 9; Oct. 19 Hillcrest; usually missed in the fall. Ovenbird: last date Oct. 4. No. Waterthrush: one Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford Sept. 13, the only report. Mourning Warbler: one banded near Binghamton Sept. 15, the only report. Com. Yellowthroat: last date Oct. 11 Emmons. Wilson's Warbler: eleven banded near Binghamton Sept. 2 to 23; only three other reports, all within that period, from Endwell and Chenango Forks. Canada Warbler: 13 banded Sept. 1 to 13 near Binghamton; Sept. 13 Chenango Forks and one Sept. Owego report. Am. Redstart: last date Sept. 23 near Binghamton.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: only four reports all fall, from Oneonta-Portlandville, Upper Lisle and Owego. Com. Grackle: a dozen Nov. 2 at Pt. Dickinson were the last reported. Brown-headed Cowbird: "hundreds" Oct. 31 at Cortland, but otherwise surprisingly few reported. Scarlet Tanager: Oct. 5 near Binghamton, the last date. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: the last of only three Sept. reports on the 13th near Binghamton. Indigo Bunting: very few reported but Oct. 5 Owego a rather late last date. Evening Grosbeak: Sept. 22 Pt. Dickinson (KP); next report 50 Vestal Center Oct. 26; scattered, but fairly frequent reports all Nov.; 155 in five flocks Nov. 15 Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford the best count. Purple Finch: scattered reports all season, but never in very large numbers; most regularly reported during the latter half of Oct. House Finch: 50 near Oneonta Nov. 15 and an average of 15 a day during Nov. at Emmons suggest the beginning of their population explosion in that area. Pine Siskin: 100 Oct. 25 and again Oct. 28 at Vestal Center; had been reported from Pt. Dickinson, Oneonta-Portlandville and Endwell by the end of the period, but little sign of regularity until Nov. 28. Am. Goldfinch: a notable increase in reports during Nov. as feeders became active. Rufous-sided Towhee: one still at Vestal Nov. 23. Savannah Sparrow: one banded near Binghamton Oct. 22 (HM) plus an undated Oct. report from Owego were the only ones. Vesper Sparrow: Oct. 9 Owego (D, JB); one Homer Nov. 21 (BB); no others. Dark-eyed Junco: 25 Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford Sept. 8; several other Sept. and early Oct. reports but from mid-Oct. numbers were much swollen by migrants. "Oregon" Junco: one at Pt. Dickinson Nov. 11 until at least Nov. 21 (BP), description submitted noting distinct black hood. Tree Sparrow: first date Oct. 16 Vestal. Chipping Sparrow: last date Oct. 23 Pt. Dickinson. Field Sparrow: five Oct. 20 Oneonta-Portlandville, last date. White-crowned Sparrow: five Emmons Oct. 13, first date; one Truxton Nov. 18, last date; only five intervening reports. White-throated Sparrow: present all period but migrants evident Sept. 30 to Nov. 23. Fox Sparrow: one banded Oct. 18 near Binghamton; only three more reports, the last Nov. 19 Pt. Dickinson. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Upper Lisle Sept. 28 (MS); one banded Oct. 1 and two more Oct. 19 near Binghamton (HM); that's all. Swamp Sparrow: only five reports, from Portlandville Sept. 20 to one Whitney Point Nov. 23, of this probably reasonably common but inconspicuous in migration species. Song Sparrow: mostly gone after Nov. 2. Snow Bunting: 25 Truxton Oct. 29 and three Owego Nov. 3; that's all so far.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

It would be fair, perhaps even generous, to call the Fall 1980 season uneventful. The weather held mild until mid-November, when our first major snow fall forced the departure of most open country birds. Waterbirds had already been forced south by two freezes, although snow fall was insignificant until then. There were few flight days, especially along the shore of Lake Ontario. F. G. Scheider reported the best numbers of warblers on 7, 13 and 18 September along the lakeshore, with sites in Sterling township, Oswego Co., generally more productive than was the east shore of Lake Ontario. However, on 6 October Scheider beat an oncoming cold front accompanied by rains to Sandy Pond Inlet. He was rewarded with a major grounding of migrants, including 42 Brown Creepers, 105 Winter Wrens, 410 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 366 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and lesser numbers of other early October migrants.

Waterbirds of all kinds remained scarce, though most of the species we expect were reported. Departure dates for shorebirds tended to be early, and waterfowl arrivals tended to be late. All diving and sea ducks were scarce, most notably expected was the newly discovered assembly of Ruddy Ducks on Onondaga Lake during November. Double-crested Cormorants continue to show healthy increases in numbers locally, but only "average" numbers of jaegers were seen this Fall.

Raptors received, at best, spotty attention. The Hatala Road hawkwatch site near Vernon, Oneida Co., had only eight days of coverage and numbers there were unimpressive. G. A. Smith observed a pronounced flight of about 75 birds along the east shore of Lake Ontario during northeast winds on 15 September. This is the first serious attempt to monitor such flights in several years. Rough-legged Hawks were late in arriving but appeared in very good numbers throughout the region, when they did come. Only a few Snowy Owls were reported, but our first local concentration of Short-eared Owls in many years attracted many observers in late November.

Cone and berry crops were mixed but generally not very large. The paucity of birds perhaps made the crops seem more abundant than was actually available. Winter finches, after two year's absence, made an expected but not exceptional showing. All species except White-winged Crossbill had appeared by the end of November, but only Pine Siskins were found in large numbers. G. A. Smith noted a strong flight of Black-capped Chickadees past Derby Hill during September and October. At peak times, 100-150 birds/hour passed by, and Smith estimated that about 15,000 birds were involved in the entire flight. Red-breasted Nuthatches were conspicuous in September, but were hard to find by mid-November.

In summary, the numbers of birds were unimpressive, but a good variety of species were found. A total of 226 species were reported. The only great rarities found were: Long-billed Dowitcher, Laughing and Sabine's Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, and Yellow-breasted Chat. These rarities were supplemented by such goodies, all now expected annually, as: King Eider, Whimbrel, Purple and Buff-

breasted Sandpipers, all three phalaropes, Franklin's and Little Gulls, Forster's Tern, and Connecticut Warbler.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; DOR—dead on road; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; LSB—Little Sodus Bay and Fairhaven State Park, Cayuga Co.; max—maximum(a); NPT—north Pompey township, Onon. Co.; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park, Oswego Co.; Syr—Syracuse; SVB—Sylvan & Verona Beaches, Oneida Co.; TRIGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onon. Co.; twsp—township.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr DH on 23 Sept., max 30 LOL on 13 Oct. Red-throated Loon: seven reported LOL 26 Oct. to 15 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: singles DH on 13 Oct. and Onon. Lake on 9 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr DH on 2 Oct., max in 20's, low. Pied-billed Grebe: 1-12/day after mid-Sept., most LSB. Double-crested Cormorant: max 108 at DH on 6 Oct. breaks the regional high set this summer. Great Egret: one, Onon. Lake on 3 Sept. Green Heron: last 5 Oct. at two sites. Black-crowned Night Heron: imm at Onon Lake on 1 Sept., Clay Marsh, Onon Co., on 28 Sept. Am. Bittern: last LOL on 4 Oct. Canada Goose: max 8,090 DH on 4 Oct. Brant: arr 12 Oct., max 3,825 on 20 Oct., last 2 Nov., almost all DH. Snow Goose: white morph, SP on 4-5 Oct. Mallard: max in low 100's. Black Duck: max 130 DH on 19 Oct. Gadwall: max 45 at LSB in Oct.-Nov. Pintail: max 1,020 DH on 19 Oct. Green-winged Teal: to 30/day, last LSB on 8 Nov. Blue-winged Teal: to 70/day, last 19 Oct. at DH. Am. Wigeon: max 320 DH on 23 Oct. Shoveler: max 6-7/day, last LSB on 8 Nov. Wood Duck: max 420 Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co., 28 Sept., last Sterling twsp on 30 Oct. Redhead: arr 3 Oct. DH, max in teens, very low. Ring-necked Duck: arr DH on 3 Oct., max in 40's during Nov. Canvasback: arr 23 Oct., max in 200's during Nov. Greater Scaup: arr SP on 19 Sept., max 7,510 DH on 24 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr 23 Sept. at Onon. Lake, max in 30's Oct. and Nov. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH on 18 Oct., to 300/day by late Nov. Bufflehead: arr 23 Oct. DH, to 75/day in early Nov. Oldsquaw: arr DH 12 Oct., to 100/day in Nov. King Eider: "female," Nine Mile Pt. Power Station, Oswego Co., 2 Nov. on (FGS), joined by second on 22 Nov. (MSR). White-winged Scoter: arr SP on 19 Sept., max 380 DH on 12 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr 10 Sept., max 90 on 13 Oct., both DH. Com. Scoter: arr 30 Sept., max 18 on 13 Oct. (very low), both DH. Ruddy Duck: arr Onon. Lake on 23 Sept., max 195 there on 8 Nov. Hooded Merganser: arr SP on 9 Sept., max 58 LOL in late Nov. Com. Merganser: arr DH on 26 Oct., max in teens, very low. Red-breasted Merganser: max 3,500 DH on 13 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last DH on 24 Oct. Goshawk: imm 9 Oct. at SP only report. Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr 6 Sept., max 31 on 15 Sept., both SSSP. Cooper's Hawk: 1-2/day Sept. on. Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 reported LOL 19 Sept. to 24 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr 17 Oct. DH, counts in teens by end of Nov. Bald Eagle: imm DH on 27 Sept., Pleasant Point, Oswego Co., on 28 Nov. (J. Kidney *vide* GAS). Marsh Hawk: max in 20's mid-Nov. Osprey: max 14 SSSP on 15 Sept., last SP on 3 Nov. Merlin: one SP on 6 Sept., one NPT on 25 Sept. Peregrine: seven reports LOL 27 Sept., to 12 Oct. Rails: none. Com. Gallinule: last SVB on 27 Oct. Am. Coot: arr 28 Sept., max in 40's LSB in Nov. Semipalmated Plover: last SVB on 27 Oct. Am. Golden Plover: arr Canastota on 4 Sept., max eight Onon. Lake on 18 Oct., last there on 23 Oct. Black-bellied Plover: max 51 SVB on 31 Oct., last LSB on 6 Nov. Ruddy Turnstone: to 7/day, last Onon. Lake on 1 Nov. Com. Snipe: to 10/day in late Oct. Whimbrel: one SP on 7 Sept. (JV). Upland Sandpiper: last Onon. Lake on 1 Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: last DH on 17 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: last HIGMA on 5 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: max only seven, last 13 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last



30 Oct. Sterling twsp. Red Knot: to 3/day, last SVB on 13 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: max only 18 on 18 Sept. at SVB, last there on 25 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: last 3 Oct. Onon. Lake. Purple Sandpiper: two on 18 Nov., one 20 Nov., both LSB (FGS). Least Sandpiper: last 5 Oct. SVB. Dunlin: max 88 LOL on 18 Oct., last 22 Nov. at SVB. Short-billed Dowitcher: last 18 Sept., SVB. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER**: imm SVB 14-21 Sept. (photographed PDeB, DWC), first regional report since 1970. Stilt Sandpiper: last 14 Sept. Onon. Lake. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SVB on 23 Oct. Western Sandpiper: female SVB 1-2 Sept. (DKA, photographed PDeB), Onon. Lake 8-13 Sept. (FGS). Sanderling: max 156 at SP on 11 Sept., last there on 2 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one SP on 6 Sept. (photographed PDeB), two there the next day (JV). Wilson's Phalarope: three sightings Onon. Lake 11-18 Sept., imm NPT on 28 Sept. (DWC), very late. No. Phalarope: three at SP on 1 Nov., one there the next day (FGS, DWC, MSR), very late. Red Phalarope: 17 SP 1-2 Nov. (FGS, DWC, MSR), one SVB on 13 Nov. (DKA). Pomarine Jaeger: imm DH on 1 Nov. (FGS), SP on 15-16 Nov. (MSR, perhaps two different birds). Parasitic Jaeger: arr 11 Sept., max 38 on 19 Oct., 40 on 26 Oct., last 1 Nov., all DH. Glaucous Gull: one 13 Nov. at DH was the only "white-winged" gull reported. Herring Gull: max in 100's. Ring-billed Gull: max 12,000 LOL on 23 Sept. Franklin's Gull: imm SP 1 and 13 Sept. (FGS). **LAUGHING GULL**: juvenal SP on 11 Sept. (FGS), 11th Regional report. Bonaparte's Gull: max in 40's SVB, mid-teens SP. Little Gull: ad. SP on 2 Nov. (FGS). **SABINE'S GULL**: imm Onon. Lake on 14 Sept. (FGS, report to New York State Avian Records Committee), fourth regional record. Black-legged Kittiwake: five imm reported LOL 12 Oct. to 2 Nov. Com. Tern: max 245 SP on 6 Sept., last 16 Oct. at Onon. Lake. Forster's Tern: imm SP on 6 Sept. (FGS, PDeB). Caspian Tern: in 30's through Sept., last DH on 13 Oct. Black Tern: last SP on 23 Sept.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Solvay, Onon. Co., on 8 Oct. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Sept. report only. Snowy Owl: two reported, LSB on 15 Nov., SP on 23 Nov. Short-eared Owl: up to 14 town of Hastings, Oswego Co., mid-Nov. on (GAS), best numbers locally since 1968. Saw-whet Owl: one DOR town of Hastings on 16 Nov. (MSR). Com. Nighthawk: max 40 Syr. on 1 Sept., last there on 12 Sept. Chimney Swift: last Syr. on 1 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 19 Sept. at SP. Com. Flicker: max in 40's mid-Sept. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr LOL on 23 Sept., max only 3/day.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**: E. Kingbird: last LOL on 9 Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: last SP on 23 Sept. E. Phoebe: last 9 Oct. at SP. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last SP on 28 Sept. Least Flycatcher: last SP on 19 Sept. E. Wood Pewee: last SP on 2 Oct. Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Syr. on 15 Oct. (MSR), first Oct. record for the Region. Horned Lark: to 20/day, low. Tree Swallow: max 600 SP early Sept., last Clay Marsh on 4 Nov. Bank Swallow: last SP on 19 Sept. Barn Swallow: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Cliff Swallow: last SP on 19 Sept. Purple Martin: last DH on 21 Sept. C. Crow: to 300/day LOL. Tufted Titmouse: about 14 reported, most at feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatch: to 13/day in Oct., almost none in Nov. House Wren: last 18 Oct. Winter Wren: arr LSB on 7 Sept., max in 10's except as noted above. Carolina Wren: three reported, all from urban Syr. Long-billed Marsh Wren: last LSB on 19 Oct. Gray Catbird: last DH on 19 Oct., then one Oswego on 23 Nov. (FGS). Brown Thrasher: last SP on 6 Oct., very early. Am. Robin: max 3,200 late Nov. at a roost in Onon. Hill. Wood Thrush: last SP on 18 Oct., then one found moribund 7 Nov. at Chittenango (MS). Hermit Thrush: arr DH on 28 Sept., max in teens early Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Sterling twsp on 6 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: six reported, last SP on 20 Sept. Veery: last SP on 18 Sept. E. Bluebird: all reports from "bluebird trails" whence they departed mid-Oct. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two reports, both SP, last 23 Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr LOL on 18 Sept. to 20's/day except as noted above. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SP on 7 Sept., to 40's/day except as noted, last 3 Nov. then one LOL on 23 Nov. (CGSpies *fide* MSR). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: three in Syr. on 22 Nov. (MSR), first report since 1978. No. Shrike: only report DH on 24 Oct. (GAS).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. Solitary Vireo: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: max in 70's during Sept., last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: max 11 LOL, last SP on 6 Oct. Warbling Vireo: last SP on 19 Sept. Black-and-white Warbler: last NPT on 3 Oct. Golden-winged Warbler: last NPT on 12 Sept. Blue-winged Warbler: last Chittenango on 12 Sept. (MS). Tennessee Warbler: max 28 NPT on 3 Oct., last there on 21 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: seven reported 28 Sept. to 5 Oct. Nashville Warbler: max 11 NPT on 13 Sept., last SP on 1 Nov. Parula Warbler: max seven SSSP on 18 Sept., last Onon Hill on 4 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: max 48 NPT on 18 Sept., last there on 9 Oct. Cape May Warbler: less than 10/day, last HIGMA on 5 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 180 LOL on 7 Oct., last Chittenango on 11 Nov. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 124 NPT on 18 Sept., last there on 21 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: max 18 NPT on 12 Sept., last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct., then one Dunbar Woods on 30 Oct. (DGM), record late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 104 LOL on 13 Sept. (record high), last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: max 19 Sterling twsp on 15 Sept., last there on 8 Oct. Pine Warbler: only report one SSSP on 1 Sept. Palm Warbler: arr LOL on 13 Sept., last there on 18 Oct. ("hypochrysea," FGS). Ovenbird: max 11 LOL on 12 Sept., last Sterling twsp on 8 Oct. No. Waterthrush: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. Mourning Warbler: only three reported, last Clay Marsh on 5 Oct. Connecticut Warbler: one SP on 13 Sept. (DWC), two Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. (FGS). C. Yellowthroat: last 18 Oct. at Chittenango, then singles there on 21 Nov. (MS) and at Nine Mile Point on 22 Nov. (*fide* MSR). **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** one DOR Cato on 15 Nov. (*fide* MSR) is our first record after 26 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: max 22 LOL on 13 Sept., last DH on 2 Oct. Hooded Warbler: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept. Canada Warbler: last SSSP on 18 Sept. Am. Redstart: max 33 NPT on 18 Sept., last there on 9 Oct.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: last Sterling twsp on 18 Sept., very early departure. E. Meadowlark: last TRIGMA on 18 Oct., very early departure for a species that often overwinters. Red-winged Blackbird: max 30,000 Clay Marsh on 5 Oct. Baltimore Oriole: last Sterling twsp on 7 Sept. C. Grackle: max 11,000 NPT on 14 Sept., last LSB on 2 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1,500 TRIGMA on 7 Oct., last LSB on 9 Nov. Scarlet Tanager: last NPT on 5 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Syr. on 8 Oct. Indigo Bunting: last SP on 6 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr LOL on 19 Oct., to 160/day by late Nov. Purple Finch: max in 50's, mostly gone from lake plains by early Nov. Pine Grosbeak: arr NPT on 1 Nov., to low teens by end of month. Com. Redpoll: arr Holland Patent on 16 Oct. (Robert L. Evans *fide* JV), max 57 SP on 2 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr LOL 19 Sept., to 200/day passing DH in Oct. Am. Goldfinch: max 136 LOL on 3 Oct. Red Crossbill: male NPT on 1 Nov. (DWC) only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: last NPT on 19 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last SP on 18 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: last SP on 16 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr SP on 6 Sept., max only 56 LOL on 23 Oct. Tree Sparrow: arr Chittenango on 18 Oct., max in 30's. Chipping Sparrow: last SSSP on 1 Nov. Field Sparrow: last Clay Marsh on 3 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Beaver Lake, Onon. Co., on 15 Sept., max in mid-teens, last Clay Marsh on 4 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: max 550 LOL on 1 Oct. Fox Sparrow: 1-7/day 19 Oct. to 4 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-3/day 12 Sept. to 8 Oct. Song Sparrow: max 292 TRIGMA on 5 Oct. Lapland Longspur: eight reported LOL after 27 Sept. Snow Bunting: arr DH on 19 Oct., large numbers from Holland Patent area only.

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## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

The Fall of 1980 was even wetter than that of 1979. Every time it rained, the amount approached two inches. Heavy rains occurred on Labor Day (1.9 inches), September 14th (2.0 inches) and 2.14 inches for the weekend of October 25-26. Temperatures were about normal and as we approached December it appeared as though another mild winter was in store for the Watertown area.

The first snowfall—a trace—occurred on September 20 when sections of the Tug Hill Plateau were dusted. A killing frost at Henderson occurred on September 22. Significant snow did not show up until late October and water areas remained open through the period. Lake Ontario water levels dropped through the period even with all the rainfall. Strong winds from the north and northwest made for many rough days on the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Wildfood crop could be classed from good to excellent with a tremendous crop of berries on the red cedars in the Henderson area.

Positive trends for the period were: some excellent waterfowl observations; a slight increase in accipiters; great increase in numbers of Marsh Hawks; increasing Gray Partridges in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties; some excellent shorebirding reports; some excellent gull and tern observations at Massena and El Dorado, and indication of a finch year in the offing.

Negatives for the period were as follows: Snowy Owls few and far between; reduced Ruffed Grouse, in particular, in the St. Lawrence County area; a single Northern Shrike; a poor warbler flight except for Yellow-rumped, and no Purple Finches in the Massena area.

Rarities for the period were: Cattle Egret; Mute Swan; Bald Eagle; Peregrine Falcon; Merlin; Western Sandpiper; Little Gull; Black-legged Kittiwake; Forster's Tern; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Gray Jay; Mockingbird and Bohemian Waxwing.

Contributors: John Belknap, Dick Brouse, Stewart Brown, Carol Budd, Tom Chassion, Lee Chamberlaine, Frank Clinch, John & Karen Confer, David, Kenneth, Marnie & Tom Crowell, Bill Gordon, Tom Goss, John Green, Joe Lamendola, Nick Leone, Warren Lloyd, Gerry Smith, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Sue VanOrden, Joe VanRiet, Bob & June Walker, and Lou Wallace.

Abbreviations: G.O.S.—Genesee Ornithological Society; SLR—St. Lawrence River.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 38 SLR from Blind Bay to Morristown Nov. 13; many, many individuals thru period on Lake Ontario various locations. Red-necked Grebe: one Wilson Hill Oct. 10 (J. VanRiet). Horned Grebe: one Wilson Hill Oct. 10; 20 Point Peninsula Nov. 2; four Pillar Point Nov. 8. Pied-billed Grebe: two Wilson Hill Oct. 10, last date. Double-crested Cormorant: two El Dorado Oct. 5, 12 El Dorado Oct. 12; one found shot El Dorado Oct. 19; one at buoy no. 54 SLR Oct. 19. Great Blue Heron: one Coles Creek Nov. 27. Green Heron: four El Dorado Sept. 6. CATTLE EGRET: one imm near Cape Vincent Oct. 17, bird had been banded (John & Karen Confer), probably banded by the Canadian Fish & Wildlife Service in their studies on the SLR and Lake Ontario. Great Egret: one Upper & Lower Lakes Sept. 14 (*vide* K. Crowell). Black-crowned Night Heron: one Hawkins Point SLR Oct. 15. Am. Bittern: one DeKalb Oct. 15. MUTE SWAN: one El Dorado thru



period. Canada Goose: arrived at Henderson Pond Sept. 27; 1,200 El Dorado Oct. 5, in numbers thru period although many moved on through and into Finger Lakes and vicinity. Brant: none reported. Blue Goose (white morph): one Perch River Nov. 13. Mallard: everywhere as usual. Black: 55 max at Wilson Hill; 240 max Wiley Dondero Channel on Oct. 7. Gadwall: 600 Wilson Hill Oct. 10; last Wiley Dondero Nov. 16. Pintail: ten Wiley Dondero Channel Oct. 17; last Wilson Hill Nov. 15. Blue-winged Teal: one Perch River Nov. 13—late (J. Lamendola). Am. Wigeon: 3,200 Wilson Hill Oct. 5, left by Nov. 16. No. Shoveler: four Perch River Oct. 1; one Perch River Oct. 3; two Wiley Dondero Oct. 5; four Perch River Oct. 11; 100 Wiley Dondero Nov. 15; last date Nov. 20 Wiley Dondero. Wood Duck: normal numbers. Redhead: max 600 Wilson Hill Oct. 24; 1,330 Wiley Dondero Nov. 14; last date Nov. 15. Ring-necked: max 740 Wiley Dondero Oct. 15; max 210 Wilson Hill Oct. 24; last date 72 on Nov. 20. Canvasback: max Wilson Hill ten Oct. 24; 20 El Dorado Nov. 2. Greater Scaup: 500+ Pillar Point Nov. 8; last at Wiley Dondero Nov. 27. Lesser Scaup: 27 Wilson Hill Oct. 25; last date Nov. 20 Wiley Dondero. Com. Goldeneye: arrival Wilson Hill Oct. 10; 40 Hawkins Point Nov. 12; 70+ Blind Bay to Morristown SLR Nov. 13. Bufflehead: four Wilson Hill Oct. 10; seven Wilson Hill Nov. 8; one El Dorado Nov. 2; 75 Point Peninsula Nov. 2; last date Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 22, low numbers. Oldsquaw: 18 Coles Creek SLR Oct. 19; White-winged Scoter: 15 SLR Oct. 10; ten El Dorado Nov. 2; one SLR Nov. 8. Surf Scoter: ten El Dorado Oct. 12; 20 El Dorado Oct. 19. Black Scoter: two SLR Oct. 10; two El Dorado Oct. 12; two SLR Oct. 16; one SLR Nov. 1; one El Dorado Nov. 2; one SLR Massena Nov. 13. Ruddy: one Perch River Oct. 3; two Henderson Harbor Oct. 12. Hooded Merganser: max 150 Wilson Hill Nov. 8; last date Nov. 20 Wiley Dondero. Com. Merganser: one Oct. 7 building to 11,000 Robt. Moses Dam at end of period; this is twice normal number for this location. Red-breasted Merganser: 115 El Dorado Nov. 2; one Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 18.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: two Pillar Point Nov. 8. Goshawk: one Upper & Lower Lakes Oct. 17; one Louisville Nov. 12; one imm El Dorado Nov. 22; one Wilson Hill Nov. 26. Sharp-shinned: one near Canton Oct. 4; one El Dorado Oct. 12; one same Oct. 19. Cooper's: one Gouverneur Nov. 26, only one reported. Red-tailed: numbers up from last fall—migration noted at Perch River Oct. 3, 10-12 individuals, Red-shouldered: none reported. Rough-legged: first on Oct. 14, and increasing thru period; at some locations black phase outnumbers light phase two to one; showing up in numbers in mid-Nov. south of Watertown. **BALD EAGLE:** one imm El Dorado Oct. 5 (G. Smith); SLR wintering birds expected in next report. Marsh Hawk: in excellent numbers, many imm., an excellent production year, coming back rapidly. Osprey: two El Dorado Sept. 27; one Crary Mills near Canton Oct. 20; one Canton Nov. 30. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one imm El Dorado Oct. 5 (G. Smith). **MERLIN:** one El Dorado 8 Sept. 27 (N. Leone). Am. Kestrel: thru period decreasing toward end of period. Ruffed Grouse: crash did not occur but not as abundant as last fall in many areas; way down in Massena vicinity—abundant in Canton vicinity—same as last year in South Colton. Gray Partridge: three coveys in Massena area, increasing there; in Jefferson Co. increasing also. Turkey: very little information on Fort Drum releases; scattered reports (unverified) on St. Lawrence Co.-Pleasant Lake releases; winter surveys should provide more information as concerns production and survival. Am. Coot: max 125 Wilson Hill Oct. 24; last date Nov. 15. Semipalmated Plover: last Wilson Hill on Oct. 25. Killdeer: last at El Dorado on Nov. 8. Am. Golden Plover: two El Dorado Sept. 27 (R & J Walker); one El Dorado Oct. 5 (G. Smith). Black-bellied Plover: eight El Dorado Sept. 27; two El Dorado Oct. 5; 21 Waddington Oct. 10; three El Dorado Oct. 12; four El Dorado Oct. 17; ten Wilson Hill Oct. 19. Ruddy Turnstone: six El Dorado Sept. 6. Am. Woodcock: thru—decrease near end of period. Spotted Sandpiper: two El Dorado Sept. 6. Greater Yellowlegs: three El Dorado Sept. 6; three Point Peninsula Nov. 2; one in plowed field near Louisville Nov. 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: five El Dorado Sept. 6; eight Pillar Point Nov. 8. White-rumped Sandpiper: one El Dorado Oct. 12; four Wilson Hill Oct. 18; eight Coles Creek SLR Oct. 25. Baird's Sandpiper: two El Dorado Sept. 6. Least Sandpiper: ten El

Dorado Sept. 6. Dunlin: eight El Dorado Oct. 5; 10 Waddington Oct. 19; 14 El Dorado Oct. 19; 23 El Dorado Nov. 2. Stilt Sandpiper: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 16 El Dorado Sept. 6; four El Dorado Oct. 5; three El Dorado Oct. 12. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: one El Dorado Sept. 6 (W. Lloyd & M. Sunderlin); two El Dorado Oct. 19 (G. Smith). Sanderling: 40 El Dorado Sept. 6; 18 El Dorado Oct. 12; eight Wilson Hill Oct. 19; 11 Coles Creek Oct. 25; one Coles Creek Nov. 2. Glaucous Gull: one imm Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 24; two Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 27. Iceland Gull: arrived Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 8; one Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 18. Great Black-backed: five El Dorado Sept. 6; 200+ Robt. Moses Dam in mid-Nov. Herring: 2000+ at Robt. Moses Dam in mid-Nov. Ring-billed: 5,000+ at Robt. Moses mid-Nov. In mid-Nov. there were 20,000 gulls gathering at dusk on both sides of Robt. Moses Dam—too dark to tell what was what (J. VanRiet). Bonaparte's Gull: six El Dorado Sept. 6; 120 Robt. Moses Dam Sept. 20; four El Dorado Sept. 27; 100 Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 23; last at Robt. Moses Nov. 16—left there early; one near Henderson Nov. 20. **LITTLE GULL**: one Robt. Moses Oct. 23 (J. VanRiet). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm. El Dorado Sept. 6 (M. Sunderlin & W. Lloyd); one imm. Robt. Moses Dam from Oct. 31 till Nov. 30 (J. VanRiet). **FORSTER'S TERN**: two El Dorado Sept. 6 (M. Sunderlin & W. Lloyd). Com. Tern: 300 El Dorado Sept. 6; one imm. at Robt. Moses Dam until Nov. 13—late (J. VanRiet). Caspian Tern: 50 El Dorado Sept. 6; two El Dorado Sept. 27.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: three Brasher Center Nov. 23; one Pierrepont Nov. 29. 20+ Henderson thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Henderson Sept. 2. Great Horned Owl: many reported, numbers up? Snowy Owl: one Wilson Hill Nov. 16-17; one Pillar Point Nov. 27; these are the only ones sighted. Short-eared Owl: injured individual from Ashland Wildlife Management Area near Three Mile Bay obtained Sept. 3 rehabilitated and released Henderson Oct. 17; injured individual from Natural Bridge Nov. 19—died; five flying and/or perched in small trees near Calcium Nov. 23 (F. Clinch). Chimney Swift: eight El Dorado Sept. 6. Belted Kingfisher: one Hannawa Falls Oct. 30. Com. Flicker: two Pierrepont Nov. 23 (T. Crowell). Pileated Woodpecker: five reports all in St. Lawrence Co., more than usual. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: one imm. eating apples Henderson Sept. 3; one ad. male along Stony Creek near Henderson Oct. 9, one ad. female at feeder Henderson Nov. 20 (L. Chamberlaine). Red-headed Woodpecker: one El Dorado Sept. 6 (G.O.S.). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two imm Henderson Sept. 28. Hairy Woodpecker: approaching normal numbers in Henderson area. Downy Woodpecker: normal numbers are back in Henderson and vicinity.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING**: E. Kingbird: 15 El Dorado Sept. 6. E. Phoebe: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Horned Lark: seven El Dorado Oct. 17; one Massena Nov. 8; 12 Massena area Nov. 12—few and far between. Tree Swallow: stayed later at Perch River, three Oct. 12; hundreds at Point Peninsula Nov. 2; two Wilson Bay, Nov. 13; six Point Peninsula Nov. 13. Bank Swallow: last El Dorado Sept. 6. Rough-winged Swallow: last El Dorado Sept. 6. Purple Martin: last one at El Dorado Sept. 6. **GRAY JAY**: seen in several areas in Sevey's and Jordan area (no numbers) (L. Wallace)—southeast St. Lawrence Co. is normal range of this species. Blue Jay: scarce in So. Colton area—more than normal in Henderson and vicinity. Com. Crow: no heavy movement noted along eastern end of Lake Ontario as normally occurs each fall; present thru period. Black-capped Chickadee: numbers in Henderson area were up from normal numbers. White-breasted Nuthatch: in normal numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Henderson Sept. 28; one Henderson Nov. 1; one Henderson Nov. 12 on suet bag; one Henderson Nov. 20. Brown Creeper: one Henderson Oct. 6; eight Henderson Oct. 7; one DeKalb Oct. 17; two Canton Nov. 18; numbers up? House Wren: last El Dorado Sept. 6. Winter Wren: one Morristown Oct. 12; one along Stony Creek near Henderson Oct. 14. Long-billed Marsh Wren: two at Perch River Oct. 12. **MOCKINGBIRD**: one Brownville Sept. 22 (W. Gordon); three near Perch River Sept. 30 (S. Brown). Brown Thrasher: one Pierrepont Nov. 23 (T. Crowell). Am. Robin: hundreds Stony Point in red cedars feeding on berries Nov. 2; five Pierrepont Nov. 29. Swainson's Thrush: one Dry Hill near Watertown



Sept. 13; two Robt. Moses Park Sept. 20. E. Bluebird: two Upper & Lower Lakes (no date) (*vide* K. Crowell), Sept. 27; eight Henderson Sept. 28; one Oct. 6 & 8 at Henderson. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four Henderson Sept. 28; one Henderson Oct. 5 & 7. Water Pipit: four overhead Henderson Oct. 7; 30 Canton Oct. 19. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: one in flock of 50 Cedar Waxwings Nov. 6-16 (J. VanRiet); one Pierrepont Nov. 29 (K. Crowell). Cedar Waxwing: many flocks thru period—excellent wild-food crop. No. Shrike: one Massena area Nov. 16—only one reported for the period.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Solitary Vireo: one El Dorado Sept. 27. Black-and-white Warbler: one El Dorado Sept. 27. Tennessee: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Cape May: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Yellow-rumped: unprecedented numbers thru Henderson area first week in Oct.—150+ in one migratory stream Henderson Oct. 7—seen in 10 minutes; 60 Henderson Oct. 8; 20 Henderson Oct. 9; last one Henderson Nov. 15. Black-throated Green: one El Dorado Sept. 6; two El Dorado Sept. 27; three Henderson Sept. 28. Bay-breasted: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Blackpoll: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Wilson's: one male Dry Hill Sept. 13.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS**: Bobolink: four El Dorado Sept. 6. E. Meadowlark: 20 Canton Oct. 9; four Fowler Oct. 10; one Massena Town Beach Nov. 2. Red-winged Blackbird: 700 at roost Wiley Dondero Channel Nov. 1; three at Massena Feeder Nov. 30. No. Oriole: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Rusty Blackbird: one El Dorado Sept. 27. Com. Grackle: one Robt. Moses Park Nov. 29. Brown-headed Cowbird: one Pierrepont Nov. 28; one in Massena area Nov. 30; none in Henderson area—normally four to five around feeders in village. Scarlet Tanager: one El Dorado Sept. 6. Cardinal: five at feeder in Morristown Oct. 12; pair in Canton Nov. 1. Evening Grosbeak: in numbers in Henderson Oct. 29; arrival in Massena area Nov. 1—ten to 20 per day thereafter. Purple Finch: five Henderson Oct. 9; 10+ Stony Point Nov. 10; four at feeder Henderson Nov. 15; not a single bird in Massena area Oct.-Nov. House Finch: none reported. Pine Grosbeak: first on Oct. 12 Hannawa Falls (M. Crowell). three Pierrepont Oct. 13; six Nov. 8 Robt. Moses Park; two Stony Point Nov. 10; six Pierrepont Nov. 27; four Dry Hill Nov. 27. Com. Redpoll: arrival—nine Robt. Moses Park Nov. 12; eight Pierrepont Nov. 15; none in Jefferson Co. Pine Siskin: first in Henderson Oct. 7; 40 El Dorado Oct. 12; 260 in small flocks along SLR Morristown to Blind Bay. Am. Goldfinch: thru period in small flocks. Rufous-sided Towhee: four El Dorado Sept. 6. Vesper Sparrow: no reports. Dark-eyed Junco: ten Henderson Oct. 7; last date for Massena Nov. 2; one Henderson at feeder thru. Tree Sparrow: small wave in Massena area from Oct. 20 to Nov. 12; first in Henderson on Nov. 2 and increasing thru. Chipping Sparrow: last in Henderson five Oct. 14. Field Sparrow: two El Dorado Sept. 6. White-crowned Sparrow: first in Henderson ten Oct. 5; three to five a day at feeder Henderson until Oct. 19; last on Oct. 28. White-throated Sparrow: in numbers Henderson Sept. 28; 30 Henderson feeder Oct. 5-Oct. 15; last in Massena area Nov. 1; last in Henderson Nov. 6; birds at Henderson feeder were mostly tan striped polymorph. Song Sparrow: one Massena Nov. 4, the last date. Snow Bunting: first Colton Oct. 21; 50 Massena area Oct. 25; 50 Perch River Nov. 1; 16 Massena area Nov. 8. Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Now that the Olympics are over we have returned to a more normal and less tropical fall season with indications of a normal winter to come. Cold weather, with frozen water and snow settled in about mid-November. This means Lake

Champlain produces most of the waterfowl records for the season and there are already some good ones.

An extensive storm on the night of October 25 broke off tree limbs at Paul Smiths and caused a considerable drop in temperature through the Region. It also seems to be responsible for two rarities, one of which stayed to be seen by many observers. Mary and Dirck Benson's hospitality is much appreciated by those who came to visit. Also appreciated is the fact that the bird chose their feeder instead of some other possibilities. A warm thank you to all three.

Geoffrey Carleton came up with a new Essex County record at Lake Champlain (with excellent details, as always) but then he outdid that with a new state record for another species.

The food crop doesn't seem to amount to much in many areas so the flocks of winter finches will probably head south of our Region for the most part. Until mid-November there were a lot of Pine Grosbeaks at Paul Smiths with many flocks headed south. Now most are gone. A few Common Redpolls were reported but they were soon gone as well. Even the Evening Grosbeaks have thinned out. (This is a blessing if you buy sunflower seed.) Bob McKinney had the high count for American Goldfinch with 15 at Indian Lake November 13, when he also had ten Pine Siskins. He reports that the Southern Tier counties have a lot of northern finches so it looks better for downstate than in the north for sighting those species this season.

Contributors: Mary & Dirck Benson; Rex Brusgul; Geoffrey Carleton; Dean Cook; Linda Curtin; Charlie Delehanty; Mark Gretch; Bob Hagar; Elspeth Johnson; Ted Mack; Robert McKinney; Norman Mason; Keith Murphy; Patty Paine; John Parke; John (Mike) Peterson; William Rutherford; Pat Tabor; Jan & Don Timmons; Maurice Villeneuve; Joan & Dave Young.

LOONS—DUCKS: Mark Gretch reports Com. Loons as quite numerous along Lake Champlain in Oct. and early Nov. MV saw five at Tupper Oct. 27 and the last inland record was one at Upper Saranac Nov. 13 (CD). A Red-necked Grebe was at Westport Nov. 18 (GC). There were good numbers of Horned Grebes on Champlain. EJ and JP had the last Great Blue Heron at North West Bay on Nov. 22. MG saw an Am. Bittern Oct. 17 at the mouth of the Great Chazy River. The Canada Goose migration was not spectacular inland, although they were reported as abundant at Lake Champlain. 24 Brant were at Essex Oct. 10 (JPa). On Oct. 3 there was one early Snow Goose with some Canadas on Lake Champlain (JY, DY). GC and NM had a subadult male Gadwall at Westport Oct. 26 and MG reports that a hunter shot a female Nov. 4 at King's Bay. A male was at the same place next day. Small flocks of Pintails were at King's Bay Oct. 18 & 25. No teal or Am. Wigeon were reported. DC reported that a hunter shot a No. Shoveler at Ti Marsh. JP lists Oct. 7, 1885 as the only other fall record for Essex Co. Two Wood Ducks were at Tupper Oct. 7 and one was at Panther Marsh near there Nov. 8. 45 Redheads and seven Canvasbacks were at King's Bay Oct. 19. Ring-necked Duck: 13 Tupper Oct. 11 (CD) and 10 Macomb Park Oct. 19 (MG). 14 Bufflehead were at Tupper Nov. 14 and only one on Nov. 17. A male and female White-winged Scoter and six Com. Mergansers were on Moody Pond at Saranac Lake Nov. 11 (MB, DB). This is noteworthy, besides being inland, due to the small size of the pond. On Oct. 22 JY and DY saw three White-winged Scoters with over 100 Black Scoters off Essex. A female of the latter was at Tupper, no date (CD). Hooded Merganser: six at Tupper Nov. 1 and several at North West Bay Nov. 22.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: five Turkey Vultures were together near Ore Bed Harbor of Lake Champlain (JP). A Goshawk was at Paul Smiths Sept. 14 (WR). CD had a Sharp-shinned

Hawk patrolling her feeder for about three weeks and a migrant rested on the summit of Discovery Mt. near Elizabethtown Oct. 17 (KM, JP). A Cooper's Hawk was at Paul Smiths Sept. 14 (WR). A few Red-tailed Hawks were seen from Indian Lake to Tupper but most were in the Champlain Valley where there were also quite a few Red-shouldered Hawks. Two kettles of ten Broad-winged Hawks each were over Tupper Sept. 15 (CD). Several sources indicate that this is a major flight year for Rough-legged Hawks. The first seen was at Wadhams Oct. 12 (PT). An imm Bald Eagle was seen perched and flying at Tupper Marsh Nov. 12-13 (CD). At least eight Marsh Hawks were reported, including one at Tupper. Two Ospreys were seen; one at Lincoln Pond and one near Split Rock Mt. near Lake Champlain. Elspeth Johnson saw a female Merlin drive away a male at Elizabethtown Sept. 13 and then watched it eat a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The next day it was there eating another bird, MG saw one in northern Clinton Co. Oct. 5. An Am. Kestrel was seen at Tupper Sept. 23 and Oct. 5. No others reported. There are good numbers of Gray Partridge in northern Clinton Co. (MG). NM spotted a Turkey in Moriah. 14 species of shorebird were recorded at Westport. A late Semipalmated Plover was at Point au Fer Oct. 22 (MG). A Killdeer was there as late as Nov. 8. One Am. Golden Plover was at Essex Sept. 2 (EJ) and several were on the Gabriel's potato fields in early Sept. Single Black-bellied Plovers were at Westport Sept. 15 and Oct. 5. One at Tupper Oct. 29 was a first for CD at that location. A late bird was still at Point au Fer Nov. 8 (MG). Pectoral Sandpipers left Point au Roche Sept. 21. GC had a Baird's Sandpiper at Westport Oct. 3 and 5 and two Dunlins there Sept. 30. A late Dunlin was at Point au Fer Nov. 4 (MG). A late Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Point au Roche Oct. 18 (MG). JY and DY had a No. Phalarope Oct. 4 in North West Bay and two at Split Rock Point Oct. 5. The only other two Essex Co. records were in Aug. 341 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Westport Oct. 19 (PT). Two imm. Little Gulls were at Willsboro Sept. 5 (EJ, PP). SABINE'S GULL: GC spotted this imm. Oct. 25 at Port Henry just after the storm with SE winds. It had a muddy brown mantle and was sitting on the water with Bonaparte's Gulls. When it flew it showed a striking white triangle on rear of dark wing and the forked tail with wide dark band was seen. Unfortunately the flock soon left. This is the first record for Essex Co.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** A Mourning Dove was at a Tupper feeder Nov. 7. Inland birds need a feeder as winter progresses. Several Great Horned Owls were reported, mostly from the Champlain Valley. A Saw-whet Owl was banded at Elizabethtown Oct. 15 (JP, EJ, JT, DT). A few of the numerous summer Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered until early Sept. **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** at Elizabethtown Sept. 3. Geoffrey Carleton spotted a hummer that was larger than the nearby Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that shared the jewelweed (*Inpatiens capensis*) patch. It had a rich cinnamon brown crown and back, carmine central spot on throat and white belly. Bits of pink sometimes showed on the sides of the throat. Good color slides were taken by Mike Peterson and many people saw it before it left on Sept. 13. This is a state first. A late Com. Flicker was in a barn at Essex Nov. 23 (LC). Hairy Woodpecker is our commonest woodpecker and there are plenty. Downy Woodpecker is nowhere near so easy to find so ten at Indian Lake in mid-Nov. is noteworthy.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** a late Great Crested Flycatcher was at Tupper until Sept. 21 (CD). Single Eastern Phoebe were at Tupper until Oct. 5 and at King's Bay Wildlife Refuge until Oct. 18. No others mentioned. Three very late Cliff Swallows (square tail, dark throat) were at Tupper Oct. 11 (CD). Three Gray Jays were at Sabattis Oct. 27 (CD), and one was at a feeder in Gabriel's Nov. 2 (JY, DY). Some different places for Com. Raven were Essex and Westport, 500+ Com. Crows were at Chesterfield Nov. 22. Boreal Chickadees were widely reported. House Wren: two late birds banded at Elizabethtown Oct. 6 and a Winter Wren banded there Oct. 19, both (JP). A Gray Catbird was still at Tupper Oct. 11 and a late Brown Thrasher was there to Sept. 21, both (CD). The same observer saw, in one hour, 113 Am. Robins headed south on Oct. 21. RMc found one about Nov. 13 at Indian Lake. A Swainson's Thrush posed side by side with a Hermit Thrush Sept. 29 at Tupper (CD). This is late for the former. A late Veery was at Tupper Sept. 21. The Champlain Val-



ley had several reports of communal roosting of E. Bluebirds in nest boxes. JP banded 22 Ruby-crowned Kinglets Sept. 25-Oct. 21. EJ and JP had a leisurely look at a Bohemian Waxwing Nov. 22 at Westport. Only two No. Shrike reports: one at Tupper Nov. 7 (CD) and one Nov. 22 at Point au Roche (MG). 300 Starlings at Picketts Corners Oct. 3 reduced to 75 Oct. 7 (CD).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** a late Red-eyed Vireo was at Tupper Oct. 7 (CD). JP banded an extremely late Tennessee Warbler Oct. 19 at Elizabethtown. CD had a late Nashville Warbler Oct. 5 at Tupper. Nobody mentions Yellow Warbler although there were more than usual in the St. Regis Falls area if not elsewhere during the summer. The latest Yellow-rumped Warbler was one eating suet Nov. 2 at Tupper (CD). A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Elizabethtown Sept. 20 (JP). Palm Warbler: one Port Henry Sept. 26 was second earliest date for *hypochrysea* in Essex Co. (GC); one *palmarum* Oct. 4 and one *hypochrysea* Oct. 19 at Elizabethtown were banded (JP). A late Ovenbird Oct. 5 was in no. Clinton Co. (MG). Wilson's Warbler: one Willsboro Sept. 5 (EJ, JP); one adult male Paul Smiths Sept. 13 (TM).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** House Sparrow: all time high for Essex Co. was 150 at a Crown Point farm Sept. 26 (GC, NM). E. Meadowlark: one at Tupper Oct. 12 and last one was near Rouses Point Nov. 1. 400 Red-winged Blackbirds were migrating through Tupper Oct. 6. Two Rusty Blackbirds were at Westport Sept. 21. No others reported. A Com. Grackle with only one foot was still at the Delehanty feeder in Tupper on the last day of Nov. A high count of 25 Brown-headed Cowbirds was at the same feeder Nov. 19. Two Scarlet Tanagers were eating crickets at the same location Sept. 22. Please delete the record of this species in the summer issue 1980 on page 186. Two pairs of Cardinals were present at Tupper through the period and the last two Purple Finches left there Oct. 16. A flock of 200+ Pine Siskins stopped briefly at Tupper Oct. 21. No Rufous-sided Towhees were reported. A late Savannah Sparrow was at Tupper Oct. 8. The first Tree Sparrow arrived there Oct. 24. A Chipping Sparrow was still at Tupper Nov. 5. **HARRIS' SPARROW:** MB and DB had the bird at their feeders for ten days starting Oct. 27. It had a pinkish bill, streaked sides, black blotch on chest, sides of head light buff, and was larger than the Dark-eyed Juncos with it. It was a good imm. bird and was banded as well as photographed. A lot of people saw it. White-throated Sparrow: one still at Tupper Nov. 30 (CD); one still at Saranac Lake Nov. 30 (BH). Fox Sparrow: one Oct. 5 No. Clinton Co. (MG); one at Tupper Oct. 31. Song Sparrow: one through Nov. 30 Tupper (CD); one through Nov. 30 Saranac Lake (BH). Good numbers of Lapland Longspurs were mixed with large flocks of Horned Larks at Rouses Point Nov. 27 (MG). The first report of Snow Buntings was Oct. 25 at Keene.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Although drought conditions continuing through the fall seriously threaten urban water supplies, the banks of our dwindling reservoirs were delightfully flooded with shorebirds. Low water levels left large expanses of flat muddy shores, attracting Am. Golden Plovers and a White-rumped Sandpiper, among other typically coastal species, to inland locations. No fewer than 22 species of ducks and 10 species of shorebirds were spotted on an October 18-19 weekend field trip to Basic Creek and Alcove Reservoirs.



Well, folks, we are indeed going to have a winter in Region 8 this year. The max temperature of 98° F. (37° C.) on September 2 provided little comfort from those bitter November winds. For those of us who may have forgotten what snow looked like, following last winter's near absence, Old Man Winter almost bestowed upon us a white Hallowe'en as one-half to one inch fell in parts of Albany, Rensselaer and northern Columbia Counties on October 28. An early heavy snowfall dropped 10 inches over the Region on November 18.

Last year I packed up my James Bond to do a bit of West Indian birding and avoid the blistering northeastern winter. This year, instead of Bananaquits for Christmas it will be Pine Grosbeaks and Snowy Owls. And it does look like a banner year for winter finches. Early sightings of Pine Grosbeaks by Juanita Cook, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills by Robert Yunick herald hope for a heavy influx.

Although 172 species were reported for the Region this fall rarities were few. The pair of Snowy Owls entertaining the railroad employees at Selkirk is among the few. A trip to Tomhannock Reservoir coordinated by Monte Gruett resulted in the sighting of a White-rumped Sandpiper for the 17 fortunate observers, and the 3 Western Sandpipers reported previously were still at Embough Bay on September 1st. A late date for an Indigo Bunting was reported by Dick Guthrie for a bird that he banded on October 29. Robert Yunick banded a juvenile Hermit Thrush on September 14, a late date for a juvenile. Dick Guthrie also reported a couple of very late swallows, an October 19 Barn Swallow at Basic Creek and an October 23 Purple Martin in New Baltimore.

Good Birding and may a Hoary Redpoll visit each and every one of your feeders.

Contributors: V & B Able, Roberta Bernstein, Rachel Brody, A & T Brown, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Kate Dunham, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Monte Gruett, Andrew Guthrie, Richard P. Guthrie, Paul Hebert, Philip Ingalls, Nancy Kern, Ted Koniowska, Carolyn & Ron LaForce, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Long, E. Mansell, Sherrie Orne, Tom Palmer, Sue & Jon Powell, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, M & W Ulmer, and Robert P. Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: six Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8. Red-throated Loon: two Alcove Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Red-necked Grebe: one Germantown Oct. 18 (WS); one Tomhannock Res. Oct. 24 (RG). Horned Grebe: one Mohawk River Niskayuna Nov. 2 (R & CL); three Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Pied-billed Grebe: Castleton Oct. 15 (JC); Ooms Pond Oct. 19 (KD & EG); Columbia Co. Oct. 18 (WS). Double-crested Cormorant: Columbia Co. Oct. 18. Great Blue Heron: seen frequently through Oct. Green Heron: a late date in Hudson Oct. 29 (A & TB). Snowy Egret: 10 Embough Bay Sept. 1 (RG & BC). Mute Swan: Columbia Co. Oct. 18 (WS). Brant: two seen on Oct. 18 in different locations; Columbia Co. (WS) and Alcove Res. (RG & AG). Snow Goose: first report from Juanita Cook in Castleton Oct. 30; flocks of 20 observed at Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8, and Embough Bay Nov. 4. Mallard: max 600 Embough Bay Nov. 4. Black Duck: max 300 Embough Bay Nov. 4. Gadwall: three Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Pintail: Ooms Pond Oct. 19 (KD & EG); seven Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Green-winged Teal: three Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Am. Wigeon: reported by more than five observers in Columbia and Rensselaer Cos. Oct.-Nov. Ring-necked Duck: Bell's Pond Livingston Oct. 16 (A & TB); and from Columbia Co. again Oct. 18 (WS). Redhead: one shot Embough Bay Oct. 8 (JP). Canvasback: 2,000 Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC), gone following first day of hunting season. Greater Scaup: several observed with Lesser Scaup Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG). Lesser Scaup: eight Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Com. Goldeneye: one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Bufflehead: six Tom-

hannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG); one Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Oldsquaw: one male on Mohawk River east of Amsterdam (TP); two Tomhannock Res. Oct. 24 (RG). White-winged Scoter: one Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG & AG). Black Scoter: three reports on Oct. 18, Castleton (JC); ten Basic Creek (RG); and Columbia Co. (WS); also, on Oct. 29, 30 (JC). Ruddy Duck: Ooms Pond Oct. 18, 29 (DD, EG, V & BA); 15 Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC). Hooded Merganser: apparently large numbers in eastern New York and western Massachusetts during late Oct. and early Nov.; max 45 Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Com. Merganser: Hudson Oct. 8, 13 (A & TB); 20 Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG); three Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: many reports thru Sept. and Oct., none for Nov.; max 13 Ghent Sept. 6 (BC). Goshawk: two Tomhannock Res. Oct. 24 (RG). Sharp-shinned Hawk: many reports for Oct.; two reports for Nov.; one Ghent Nov. 6 (B & HG); one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). Cooper's Hawk: more than six reports for period from central and southern portion of this Region. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Pinnacle Hawk Watch Sept. 20 (R & CL). Broad-winged Hawk: seen intermittently through Oct. (JC, V & BA). Rough-legged Hawk: several sightings for Nov., the earliest is Oct. 17 from Pinnacle Hawk Watch. Marsh Hawk: about 10 reports through period. Osprey: three reports from Oct.; two from Nov. Am. Coot: Ooms Pond Oct. 18-27 (KD, EG, V & BA); 80 Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC); 15 Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG). Killdeer: common through Oct.; latest date is for three at Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG). **AM. GOLDEN PLOVER:** one Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG); two Cocksackie Flats Sept. 28 (RG). **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8 (MG); one Alcove Res. Oct. 19 (RG); two Cocksackie Flats Sept. 28 (RG). Am. Woodcock: latest date is from Spencertown Oct. 29 (M & BU). Com. Snipe: Ghent, Oct. 11; Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18. Spotted Sandpiper: Hudson, Oct. 1 (A & TB). Greater Yellowlegs: four reports through Nov. 8; max 22 Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Pectoral Sandpiper: Ghent Oct. 1, 2 (B & HG); Churchtown, Oct. 13 (A & TB); max 25 Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** one Tomhannock Res. Nov. 8, very late date (MG). Dunlin: 25 Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Dowitcher sp: one Basic Creek Oct. 18 (RG). **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** same three reported in late Aug. from Embough Bay Sept. 1, in flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers (RG & BC). Sanderling: Ghent Oct. 1 (B & HG). Iceland Gull: one New Baltimore Nov. 22 (RG). Great Black-backed Gull: three reports from Castleton. Herring Gull: max 200 Mohawk River Niskayuna Nov. 2. Ring-billed Gull: several reports through period; Tom Palmer reports them most noticeable between Nov. 3-9 along Mohawk River. Bonaparte's Gull: one Basic Creek Oct. 23 and one New Baltimore Sept. 28 (RG).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Barn Owl: three Cocksackie Sept. 28. Screech Owl: four reports for period in Spencertown, Ghent and Amsterdam. Great Horned Owl: eight reports for period. **SNOWY OWL:** a male and an imm. female appeared in Selkirk by late Nov. They have been very conspicuous through end of period and have been observed feeding on pigeons. Barred Owl: two Jenny Lake Sept. (RY). Short-eared Owl: three observed on their Cocksackie Flats winter range Nov. 23—an earlier than usual date. Belted Kingfisher: at least nine reports for period. Com. Flicker: common through period but declining in Nov. Pileated Woodpecker: 11 reports through period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Old Chatham Oct. 6 (PI); one Greenport Oct. 3 (BC); one banded in New Baltimore Oct. (RG).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** Great Crested Flycatcher: only one report, Castleton, Oct. 1 (JC). E. Phoebe: fairly common through Oct. Tom Palmer reports Oct. 5 as last date for Amsterdam. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded, New Baltimore, Sept. (RG). Trail's Flycatcher: one banded, New Baltimore, Sept. Least Flycatcher: seven banded, New Baltimore, Sept. E. Wood Pewee: three banded, New Baltimore, Sept. Horned Lark: made their appearance on Oct. 18 in Amsterdam (TP) and are growing in numbers as winter approaches. Tree Swallow: last date Oct. 7 in Columbia Co. Barn Swallow: max 13 Ghent, Sept. 6 (BC); one very late date at Basic Creek Res. Oct. 19 (RG). Purple Martin: one record late date at

New Baltimore Oct. 23 (RG). Black-capped Chickadee: RY reports "very definitely a flight year . . . by late Sept., at Jenny Lake, chickadees were everywhere in the woods." His banding of 59, mostly imm. individuals, compares with the previous flight year '78-'79, which "consisted principally of previously banded birds." Tufted Titmouse: seven banded at New Baltimore. White-breasted Nuthatch: many reports but considered "scarce at Jenny Lake, none banded!" (RY). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 17 bandings at Jenny Lake indicate a declining population since summer (RY). Brown Creeper: common through Oct., declining in Nov.; one banded New Baltimore, Sept. House Wren: last date Oct. 25, Old Chatham (PI). Winter Wren: one Amsterdam, Nov. 8 (TP). Carolina Wren: one Amsterdam, Oct. 18 (TP); two through period at New Baltimore (RG). Gray Catbird: 76 banded at New Baltimore through Sept. and Oct.; last report Nov. 30. Old Chatham (PI). Wood Thrush: last reported Oct. 18, New Baltimore (RG). Hermit Thrush: RY banded a late date juvenal at Jenny Lake Sept. 14 which approaches John Bull's latest date of Sept. 23 for fledglings. Swainson's Thrush: eight banded New Baltimore in Sept. (RG); last report Oct. 24, Hudson (A & TB). Gray-cheeked Thrush: Castleton, Oct. 11 last report (JC). E. Bluebird: scattered sightings through Nov. 26, Montgomery & Columbia Co. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: common through Oct.; five banded in New Baltimore that month; last report Old Chatham Nov. 1 (PI). Water Pipit: Castleton, Oct. 13-29 (JC); one Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Cedar Waxwing: common through period; seven banded New Baltimore, Sept.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one New Baltimore Sept. 8 (RG). RG banded the following 19 species of vireos and warblers in New Baltimore this fall: one Solitary Vireo Oct.; 20 Red-eyed Vireos Sept.-Oct.; one Warbling Vireo, Sept.; one Black-and-white Warbler Sept.; 19 Tennessee Warblers Sept.; seven Nashville Warblers Sept.-Oct.; two No. Parulas Sept.; 17 Magnolia Warblers Sept.; last report from Hoge Hill Oct. 15 (V & BA); 19 Yellow-rumped Warblers Oct.; seven Black-throated Green Warblers Sept.; one Blackburnian Warbler Sept.; six Blackpoll Warblers Sept.-Oct.; one Ovenbird Sept.; one Mourning Warbler Sept.; five Com. Yellowthroats Sept.; one Wilson's Warbler Sept.; three Canada Warblers Sept.; seven Am. Redstarts Sept. Only two warbler species were observed and not banded. Bay-breasted Warbler: two New Baltimore Sept. 14 (RG). Palm Warbler: Lake Taghkanic Oct. 1 (A & TB).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: last seen Oct. 19, a small flock in Amsterdam (TP). E. Meadowlark: reported common through Nov. in Columbia Co. (V & BA). Red-winged Blackbird: common through period, numbers decreasing in Nov. No. Oriole: only report is from Amsterdam Sept. 1 (TP). Rusty Blackbird: reported from Ghent and elsewhere in Oct., last seen in Ghent Nov. 6 (B & HG). Scarlet Tanager: nine banded, New Baltimore Sept. (RG). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: three banded New Baltimore Sept. (RG); last seen Oct. 14, Ghent (V & BA). Indigo Bunting: one banded in New Baltimore Oct. 29, a very late date (RG). John Bull states rare after mid-Oct. Evening Grosbeak: appeared on Oct. 22 in Castleton (JC), becoming widespread in area through Nov. Purple Finch: Jenny Lake breeding ground provided a good banding year for RY with 633 banded May-Oct., but becoming much reduced in numbers by mid-Sept. House Finch: RY was banding record numbers at Jenny Lake (154 for period), but numbers dropped off unexpectedly in mid-Nov. Pine Grosbeak: made a very early appearance in Castleton on Nov. 15 (JC). Pine Siskin: first heard in flight at Jenny Lake Oct. 12 by RY, who also reports that an Oct. 29 yard bird is the earliest in 17 years; TP reports sightings Oct. 8-Nov. 8 with max on Oct. 18. Am. Goldfinch: RY banded 30, his record for Jenny Lake Aug. 13-Sept. 6, with an abnormally high proportion of adults, 23 adult, 7 imm. Red Crossbill: RY reports these birds "definitely on the move;" 2 Jenny Lake Sept. 28 and 6-8 on Nov. 8. Rufous-sided Towhee: reported common in Columbia Co. in Oct. (V & BA), but no other reports. Vesper Sparrow: seen intermittently in Castleton through Oct. (JC); one Basic Creek Res. Oct. 18 (RG). Dark-eyed Junco: reported scarce at Jenny Lake in Sept. after Aug. fledging, but becoming abundant at feeders after mid-Oct.; 43 banded, New Baltimore Oct. Tree Sparrow: first report Oct.



29 Ghent (B & HG); becoming common in Nov. when eight were banded in New Baltimore (RG). Chipping Sparrow: common through Oct. Last reported Nov. 3 (V & BA). RG banded the following seven species of sparrows in New Baltimore this fall: two Field Sparrows Sept.-Oct.; three White-crowned Sparrows Oct.; 168 White-throated Sparrows Sept.-Oct.; RY reports scarce at Jenny Lake in Sept., but banded 38 Oct.-Nov.; two Fox Sparrows Oct. and another two banded at Jenny Lake (RY); one Lincoln's Sparrow Sept.; also observed in Ghent Oct. 1 (B & HG); three Swamp Sparrows Oct.; and 20 Song Sparrows Sept.-Oct. Lapland Longspur: one with Snow Buntings on record early date Oct. 18 Basic Creek Res. (RG). Snow Bunting: a flock of 100 were seen migrating along the Hudson at Embough Bay Nov. 4 (BC); very early date of Oct. 18, Basic Creek Res. (RG).

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

[Because of other responsibilities, Dick Guthrie has resigned as editor of Region 8, and has been succeeded by Bill Cook. The editors wish to thank Dick for a job well done.]

## REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The 3.96 inches of rainfall in October made it the first month with above average (0.12 in.) precipitation since April. This year's growing season drought made it the eighth driest in the last 85 years. During October many springs and streams began to flow again, but modestly. September was completely frostless; the first occurring on October 10. November was cooler than usual, with snow falling on November 18. The amount varied from one inch in the southern portion of the Region to about eight inches in the higher reaches of the Catskills. Small amounts of rain were observed on November 4 and 24, but not enough to break the drought and raise the reservoirs.

Many reservoirs were almost empty at the start of the season, and one might have expected their bare beds to entice migrating shorebirds to stop and feed. This was not the case through much of the Region. Reporters from the southern portion said that open mud flats were largely unoccupied. The exception seemed to be Ashokan Reservoir which lured a good variety of birds in some numbers. Cold fronts were rather weak during September and this was reflected in the rather poor movement of Broad-winged Hawks. Even the warbler migration was affected. The best movements were noticed for a few days after a September 16 cold front. Relatively few winter finches were noted; Pine Siskins were well reported east of the Hudson and along the ridges in the west of the Region, but the immediate Hudson Valley was devoid of them. Evening Grosbeaks and Snow Buntings arrived as expected, but in smaller numbers than usual. The only other northern finches reported were a pair of Pine Grosbeaks in the Balsam Lake Mt. area of the Catskills. Rarities included in the report are: Red-necked Grebe, Great Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, White Ibis, Black Vulture, Baird's Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, California Gull, Western Kingbird, Common Raven, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak and Lapland Longspur.



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Abbreviations used: First four or five letters of each county; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPH—Mt. Peter Hawk Watch, Warwick; WSF—Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Com. Loon: five over Hook Mt. Sept. 24; three Ashokan Res. Sept. 9 inc. to a max of 35 by Sept. 25; one obs from Pawling Tower Sept. 27. Red-throated Loon: two on Hudson off Dobbs Ferry Oct. 20, and two off Croton Pt. Nov. 2. One at Ashokan Nov. 9 were the only reports. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** always a good find, one Ashokan Res. Oct. 16 was very early. Double-crested Cormorant: good numbers after unusual high of last summer along the length of the Hudson. **GREAT CORMORANT:** one imm Oct. 14 at Dobbs Ferry. First report since the early 1970's and the second report ever in Region 9. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** an unusually high number of five at L. Tappan Sept. 4. One at MC from Sept. 14 to month's end. One at Innisfree, Dutch Sept. 10. **CATTLE EGRET:** one at WSF Sept. 4 was unusual in fall (Janet Fitzpatrick). Six in Dutch Oct. 29 is probably the highest number ever in the Region at one time. Great Egret: scattered reports in Sept. Max 35 at L. Tappan Sept. 4. Last there Sept. 16. Snowy Egret: max six at Croton Pt. Four still there Nov. 7. **WHITE IBIS:** an imm. at MC Sept. 5 remained thru month's end. Mute Swan: continues to inc. Fifteen ad at CB Sept. 1 inc to 50 by Sept. 28. Another 50 up river near Beacon Oct. 10 were probably the same birds. Canada Goose: first southbound flocks reported Sept. 27 over Ashokan. There were six flocks of about 60 birds in each—too numerous to report from then on. Brant: an estimated 380 in four flocks over Hook Mt. Oct. 22. Snow Goose: a single bird spent most of the summer thru Sept. on Congers L and nearby L Tappan. Single birds were reported in at least two locations in West thru end of period. High flying migrants were reported in mid-Oct. with a max of 100 over Dutch. Black Duck: max 430 on Ashokan Nov. 9. Gadwall: always unusual—three on L Tappan Sept. 4 were quite early. Four on CB Sept. 28. Pintail: an unusually high number of 26 at CB Sept. 28. Blue-winged Teal: exceptionally good numbers everywhere in early Sept. Max 40 CB Sept. 28. Am. Wigeon: max 82 at CB Sept. 20. No. Shoveler: always unusual—a female at Rockland L Sept. 24 was early. Two in Dutch Oct. 29 and another near Stissing Nov. 25. P. French saw an unheard of 25 to 30 near the causeway of L DeForest on Nov. 18, and the following day eight were at L Tappan. Wood Duck: continues in exc numbers. Max 40 at Iona L Sept. 28. Last there Nov. 1. Exc. numbers at Bashakill. Redhead: two at CB Nov. 20. One still there Nov. 30. Ring-necked Duck: max 100 Nov. 7 Thompson Pd. Canvasback: approaching the old numbers of 30 years ago. Max 7,500 at CB Nov. 20. Lesser Scaup: numbers down. First two at CB Sept. 28. Max 9 Tarrytown Res. Nov. 7. Oldsquaw: three Nov. 2 Orange L. 12 Nov. 5 at CB. White-winged Scoter: only report five at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 10. Surf Scoter: one with the above group of White-wings at Dobbs Ferry. Two females at Orange L Nov. 2. Black Scoter: 15 CB Oct. 22, and 22 Orange L Nov. 2. 40 at Ashokan Oct. 16 inc. to 60 by Oct. 21. A single bird on Hunn's L, Dutch, Oct. 22. Ruddy Duck: 12 on Tomahawk L Oran Oct. 26 inc to 15 by Nov. 8. 15 at Rockland L Nov. 3 was high for such an early date. Com. Merganser: first migrants 10 at Ashokan Oct. 3. Max 20 on Hudson at Bodowin Pk. Oct. 22. Red-breasted Merganser: one Sheffield Rd. Pd. Dutch Nov. 11 was the only report.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE:** two over White Horse Mt. one day in Sept. and a rumor of another over Hook Mt. (dates unknown). Goshawk: MPH had a total of seven and tied the previous one day max of three on Oct. 30. One imm at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 14, and another over Billings, Dutch Sept. 24. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total of 1,581 on MPH. Max 147 Sept. 23. An imm. was window-killed at Irvington, West Nov. 23. Marion VanWagner of Pleasant Valley has had a male preying on her feeder birds for several years now. Cooper's Hawk: MPH had a total of 46 with a max of 21 on Oct. 30, a new one day record

for that count. Red-tailed Hawk: residents normal. MPHWS had a total of 461, a new high over the old record of 312. They also broke the old one day record of 55 with a whopping 101 on Oct. 29. Red-shouldered Hawk: MPHWS total was 47. Max nine on Nov. 8 tied the previous record. Broad-winged Hawk: went thru in disappointing numbers. Max count rec'd was 1,300 on Sept. 16 near Mohonk. MPHWS totaled 3,072 for the season with a max of 709 on Sept. 18. The daily watch at Butler Sanct. West had a max of 527 the same date. Rough-legged Hawk: several moved into the Region during Oct. and were still resident at end of period. Two were in Dutch, and at least three in Oran. Golden Eagle: one at WSF Sept. 6, and two on MPHWS Nov. 2 and 3. Bald Eagle: a few more fall reports than usual away from the hawk watches. Only one on MPHWS Sept. 9. One imm over Ft. Montgomery Nov. 15. One ad Rondout Res. Nov. 29 could be a wintering bird. One Vassar Farm, Dutch Oct. 15. Marsh Hawk: MPHWS beat their old record of 56 by an astounding 101. Max one day record was ten on Oct. 29. Osprey: MPHWS totaled 141, with max of 17 on Sept. 16. Last was Oct. 30. Peregrine: MPHWS totaled two; one Oct. 1 and the other Oct. 19. One imm put on a fine display over the marsh for several minutes at MC Sept. 14. Two at Ashokan Oct. 11. Merlin: six on MPHWS. Max two on Oct. 10. Am. Kestrel: MPHWS total was 258. Max 26 on Sept. 23. Ruffed Grouse: good numbers of spring and summer continued into fall. Bobwhite: ten or twelve near Amenia were probably hatched in the area. Turkey: gradually increasing in the Schawangunks where they were released several years ago. Flocks of up to 20 are regularly seen. About ten were observed near Clove Valley, Dutch where six were seen in Jan. '79. Virginia Rail: one Croton Pt. Sept. 5. Sora: one Croton Pt. Sept. 9 and another in the salt marsh at MC Sept. 13. Semipalmated Plover: one Croton Pt. Sept. 9 was the only report. Am. Golden Plover: numbers good but not as high as last year. Majority at Stewart Airport and WSF. First near Purchase Aug. 29. 48 at WSF Sept. 1 inc to 200 there Sept. 18. Arr at Stewart Airport Sept. 5. A max there of 50 Oct. 31. Two there till Nov. 23. Black-bellied Plover: more than usual. Max four at L Tappan thru Sept. Two last there Nov. 7. Five Croton Pt. Oct. 8. Four still there Nov. 2. One at Stewart Airport Sept. 12. Three at Ashokan Sept. 27 inc to 15 by Oct. 3. Last there Nov. 4. Upland Sandpiper: at least ten at WSF Sept. 1. Inc to 25 by Sept. 12. Last there Oct. 12. Pectoral Sandpiper: last at L Tappan Sept. 16. First Ashokan Sept. 28. Inc to 40 thru Oct. 19. Last there seven on Oct. 4. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: one Ashokan Sept. 30. Obs there again Oct. 5 & 11. Another at WSF Sept. 6. Least Sandpiper: 20 at Ashokan from Sept. 28 thru Oct. 3. Last one there Oct. 6. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: always rare and difficult to identify. Several mixed with Semipalms at Ashokan from Oct. 3 thru Oct. 19. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: becoming regular fall migrants at WSF where two were found Sept. 1, inc to eight by Sept. 28. Last four there Oct. 1. Only three were at Stewart Airport Sept. 12. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: reported for the second year at Stewart Airport. Four there Sept. 17. Gulls: resident species back to normal proportions after a couple of years dominated by Great Black-backed. Population at CB ran about 120 Ring-billed to 20 Herring to ten Great Black-backed. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: the adult of the last two years was once again at Rockland L. It was seen from early Sept. thru the end of the period. Bonaparte's Gull: two at Ashokan Oct. 27, one Wappingers L Oct. 22. Laughing Gull: not found in the mid-Hudson Valley last summer, but two appeared at CB Sept. 12.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: plentiful especially in early fall. Barn Owl: a pr nested at Amenia. Four young were banded on Aug. 14 when about a month old. One was killed in a fall but the rest roosted there until mid-Oct. Great Horned Owl: at least six reports from Dutch dur Nov. Barred Owl: at least seven reported from Dutch dur Nov. Short-eared Owl: only report four birds obs at Galeville Airport Nov. 23. Saw-whet Owl: Dan Smiley identified one at Mohonk and another in New Paltz. Com. Nighthawk: not in the spectacular numbers of the last two years, but good. Max 100 over Armonk Sept. 1, and 217 over Rye Sept. 3. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: fewer than usual. Max three over Hook Mt. Sept. 10. Red-bellied Woodpecker: usual few in Dutch, and a few others scattered thru

the Region. Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 near Blue Chip Farm, Walkill, Nov. 2 will probably winter there.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: WESTERN KINGBIRD:** one, WSF, Oct. 5. E. Phoebe: exc numbers in West, and inc in Rock where they have been down in recent years. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: always difficult to identify in fall. An unusual number of six identified at Thompson Pd Sept. 6. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at Rye Nature Center Sept. 8. Last at Wawarsing Sept. 17. Horned Lark: a small flock at Piermont Pier Nov. 10 was the first fall report for Rockland in 10 yrs. Numbers good thru farmland of northern portion. Max about 200 at WSF by Nov. 15. Tree Swallow: "thousands" migrating thru Dutch Sept. 16. Rough-winged Swallow: two at MC Sept. 19 were late. Barn Swallow: about 60 passed Dutchess Hill Sept. 6-7. Last six Sept. 17 near Tamarack Pd. Blue Jay: good movements thru most areas. Max 846 in two hours at Dobbs Ferry Sept. 30. **COMMON RAVEN:** one heard calling on Slide Mt. Oct. 13. Fish Crow: two at Stony Pt. Nov. 7 and the usual few near Vassar thru Oct. Black-capped Chickadee: after an average of about 30 per season since 1970, Valerie Freer banded about 84 this fall near Ellenville. An extraordinary increase. Tufted Titmouse: more than 60 obs at Bashakill Sept. 2. A very large movement. Red-breasted Nuthatch: numbers good compared to dearth of recent years. Reports from most areas of one or two birds. First time in three years for some observers. Winter Wren: two Sept. 27 near Pawling; one near Garrison Station Oct. 23. Several reports from the Catskills where they breed. Carolina Wren: summer highs continued into winter season. Mockingbird: everywhere! One downy young at Dobbs Ferry the late date of Sept. 29. Am. Robin: max more than 500 feeding near the Kingston Radio Transmitter Sept. 16. Wood Thrush: one Oct. 15 near Norrie Pt. Dutch was quite late. Hermit Thrush: max ten at Bashakill Nov. 1. Last at Rondout Nov. 29. E. Bluebird: 12 on Mine Rd., USMA Sept. 28, inc to 20 by Oct. 18. Last four there Nov. 2. Golden-crowned Kinglet: appeared in Purchase Sept. 13 and peaked about Sept. 24. Water Pipit: more reports than usual. Thirty at Croton Pt. Oct. 20. Three still there Nov. 2. Max 150 at WSF Oct. 21. Cedar Waxwing: more than 100 near Kingston transmitter Sept. 19. Two young fledged at Middletown on the late date of Sept. 15. No. Shrike: two Galeville Airport Nov. 2. Loggerhead Shrike: one Galeville Airport Nov. 30. Another at MC Sept. 21.

**VIREOS-WARBLES:** White-eyed Vireo: two at MC and in Purchase were last noted on Sept. 14. Solitary Vireo: first two Mine Rd., USMA Sept. 24. Last one there Oct. 18. One Newburgh Oct. 22. Philadelphia Vireo: three Bashakill Sept. 7, and another at CB Sept. 12. One at Pond Gut, Dutch Sept. 15, and another at Tamarack, Dutch, Sept. 9. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one obs by Elizabeth Burroughs Kelly at Reverby, Ulster on Sept. 11. Came as close as ten ft. Worm-eating Warbler: one at Ft. Montgomery Oct. 5 was rather late as was another in Dutch Oct. 22. Tennessee Warbler: one Nov. 4 was banded at Millbrook School. Another at Pleasant Valley, Nov. 14. Both were quite late. Yellow Warbler: one still at Purchase Sept. 20 was late. Another that same date at Mine Rd., USMA. Yellow-rumped Warbler: usual fall numbers and dates. One found all Nov. at Pleasant Valley—could winter. Bay-breasted Warbler: Peaked in Dutch with ten on Sept. 9. Blackpoll Warbler: peaked in Dutch Sept. 25 with more than ten birds. Pine Warbler: two at Innisfree, Dutch Sept. 10, and two more there Sept. 25-30. One Ashokan Sept. 8. Palm Warbler: one Rockland L. Sept. 24 was early, but another one appeared even earlier at MC Sept. 6. One Oct. 18 at Bashakill was more normal. One Nov. 1 at Bashakill was on the late side. Connecticut Warbler: one Sept. 21 at Bashakill was the only report. Com. Yellowthroat: one heard Nov. 29 at Amenia was very late. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report one at Bashakill Sept. 1. Am. Redstart: one very late female at Croton Pt. Nov. 2.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** No. Oriole: one at Dobbs Ferry Nov. 27 and another town of Hurley, Ulst Nov. 19 were quite late. Rusty Blackbird: good numbers from most areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: a max of 200 Oct. 13 near Pleasant Valley. Cardinal: numbers seem to be inc. since low of several years ago. Family units are commonly found at feeders. A



pr near P'kpsie were feeding young just out of the nest on Sept. 24. **BLUE GROSBEAK:** an imm male was at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 9. Indigo Bunting: last report along Mine Rd., USMA Sept. 28. Dickcissel: an imm male Oct. 9 was the second year in a row at the Dobbs Ferry Waterfront. An imm female at a feeder in White Plains Oct. 15-22. Evening Grosbeak: first report six in Dutch Oct. 18. Max 300 there Oct. 31. Most reports were of birds flying over. Very few at feeders thru period. Purple Finch: max 40 Sept. 24 Holiday Hills, Dutch. Few others reported. House Finch: everywhere! Dozens reported at every feeder. Some people have started trapping and releasing them elsewhere much as they did with House Sparrows years ago. Pine Grosbeak: two at Balsam Lake Mt. Nov. 16 was the only report. Pine Siskin: (see introductory comments). Rufous-sided Towhee: a large movement was reported thru the Bashkill on Oct. 18. Savannah Sparrow: seven at WSF Oct. 4 inc to 13 by Oct. 12. Dark-eyed Junco: first reported at Croton Sept. 15. Numbers low at end of period. Tree Sparrow: arr Nov. 1 in most areas—numbers low. Chipping Sparrow: last two Oct. 18 at Cary Arboretum. White-crowned Sparrow: an exceptionally good fall movement—reported in numbers from all areas. Lincoln's Sparrow: first at Dobb's Ferry Sept. 29. Two there thru Oct. Last one there Nov. 5. **LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** more than usual. One WSF Nov. 8 and another at Ashokan Nov. 9 and two at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill Nov. 23. One near Miller-ton Nov. 23. Snow Bunting: 35 at Upper Grand View Nov. 19. Eight at Dobbs Ferry Nov. 2. Two at WSF Oct. 21 inc to 20 by Oct. 28. Two at Ashokan Oct. 27 inc to more than 200 by Nov. 1 and 300 by Nov. 15.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The mean temperature during most of the fall averaged three degrees below normal. After a dry period at the end of the summer, precipitation was an inch above average during October, and close to average in November. Winds were from the northwest on nine days during the period, producing modest hawk flights along the beaches on six of the days. Several days with winds from the west also produced moderate flights. No big flights occurred.

The fall passed with the familiar stages evident. Most Common Terns had left the area by the first week in September. Early September saw movements of *Empidonax* flycatchers and warblers along the beaches. Phoebees were evident by September 24th. The first Canada Geese were moving thru September 27th and 28th. The end of that month also brought the beginning of a widespread westward flight of Double-crested Cormorants moving past Great Gull Island where observers remained until November 23rd this year. Over 600 cormorants passed on September 29th, and the birds continued to be seen through October 17th when over 1,000 were seen. A minimum of 2,800 were noted during the period. Blue Jays were noted in large numbers September 24th at Spuyten Duyvil, and on October 3rd on Great Gull. October 5th brought the first influx of "Myrtle" Warblers and sparrows to Great Gull Island. Over 450 "Myrtles" and 100 Common Flickers were seen in one hour of observation at Riis Park on October 8th. An enormous flight of Pine Siskins started in early October along the beaches. On the 13th, 1,400 were counted in three and a half hours; over 1,000 were seen



November 2nd as the birds kept coming. Whatever the signal for departure is, every siskin in Canada must have heard it. Mid-October brought large flocks of geese to eastern Long Island and extensive arrival of "Myrtle" Warblers. All observers noted large numbers of White-crowned Sparrows by the end of October. Early November brought flocks of Snow Geese all day at Great Gull, the first Purple Sandpipers, the first Snow Buntings and two Common Redpolls. Huge numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds hurried westward along the Jones Beach strip. Mid-November was marked by Gannet movement westward along the beaches, and a winter storm brought six Harlequin Ducks to Great Gull November 18th, a few days before the observers departed in search of Thanksgiving dinner. By the end of November a few sea ducks had begun to congregate at Montauk and the fall seemed over. Overall it was an interesting fall season, much better than last year with more diversity to reward the field observer.

Rarities for the season include White-faced Ibis, White-fronted Goose, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Positive notes in an interesting fall season include a good flight of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, siskins, and goldfinches; White-crowned Sparrows were in substantial numbers, Veeries seemed plentiful, Snow Geese in greater than usual numbers, a good Canada Goose flight peaked in mid-October, large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds in early November, Canvasback numbers up.

Negative observations were Horned Grebes low, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes only fair, very few Gray-cheeked Thrushes noted, few Winter Wrens and Brown Creepers, Sapsuckers low, sparrows other than White-crowned low, Tree Sparrows late and in small numbers on eastern Long Island, Vesper Sparrows continue low.

#### HAWK WATCHES

Three hawk watches were maintained within city limits this year: the Moses Mountain watch on Staten Island, one at the New York Botanical Gardens, and another on the beach at Breezy Point, Brooklyn. Watching at the New York Botanical Gardens offers certain advantages to local birders according to participants; it's close to public transportation, there is no hard climb to reach the top, and there are benches to sit on when you get there. Rest rooms are close by as are eating facilities and shelter, and the company is good-spirited. The watch was fully manned most days through September, October and well into November, by a congenial group who "relax, have fun, and get our share of birds." Results from these watches are in the detailed observations.

#### PELAGIC TRIPS FOR WHALES AND BIRDS

This summer and part of the fall, the Okeanos Research Foundation ran up to four trips a week to seek cetaceans south of Montauk Point. Their success rate during the summer was high because they used a spotter plane to help locate the whales. Usually a good number of pelagic birds and gulls are drawn by the same or related food sources that attract the whales. Finback and Humpback whales were regularly observed, sometimes almost at arm's length, Minke Whales, Spotted Dolphins, Saddle-backed Dolphins, and sea turtles were also found.

Table 1 lists the birds that were seen on trips that carried birders. The trips ranged from three or four miles to about thirty miles south of Montauk Point with an average distance of fifteen to seventeen miles.

TABLE 1  
A Summary of Pelagic Birds seen on 1980 Whale Trips

Species	6/28	7/13	7/18	8/13	8/23	8/30	9/12	9/13	10/4	10/11
Northern Fulmar									1	1
Sooty Shearwater	20	40	10		4					
Greater Shearwater	100	900+	40	8	75	250	6	10	11	
Cory's Shearwater	100	100+	350	440	300	200	70	165	34	42
Manx Shearwater	3		2	2	4		1			
Audubon's Shearwater	1?	(had dark undertail coverts)								
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			500	200	625		1			
Gannet	1				1			1	1	6
Northern Phalarope				6			1			
Phalarope sp?							20			
South Polar Skua			1							
Pomarine Jaeger					1			3		
Parasitic Jaeger								1		
Black-legged Kittiwake						2 (imm)			1	1
Common Tern				3		6	4			
Arctic Tern				1 (ad)	1 (ad)					

Observers: 6/28, APC; 7/13 APC; 7/18 APC, BJS; 8/13 DWC, BJS; 8/23 DWC, BJS; 8/30 BJS; 9/12 BJS; 9/13 BJS, GSR, DL, RA; 10/4 J. Siphron; 10/11 G. and M. Dreameaux.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Ralph Cioffi, Arthur P. Cooley, Matt Crandall, Dorothy W. Crumb, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joseph DiCostanzo, Frances File, Paul Gillen, Sol Hait, David Larsen, William Lamoureux, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Robert Lewis, Alan Lindberg, Glenn Quinn, Gilbert S. Raynor, Don Riepe, Herbert Roth, Walter Sedwitz, Barbara J. Spencer, Cornelius Ward, Alvin Wollin, Richard ZainEldeen. Great Gull Island observers: Joseph DiCostanzo, Helen Hayes, Pamela Manice, Gretchen Meyer, Mary Windels. Hawk watch reporters: Moses Mountain, George Bouquio; Botanical Gardens, Sol Hait; Breeze Point, Hannah Richards.

LOONS-DUCKS: Both loons, and Horned Grebes seemed poorly represented in most localities. An exception was a concentration of 20 Com. Loons, one Red-throated Loon, and one Red-necked Grebe Nov. 18 at the Morton Neck Wildlife Refuge (J. Larsen). Three Cory's Shearwaters at Montauk Oct. 13 were late (DL). A small black and white shearwater seen from Jones Beach Nov. 1 seems likely to have been a Manx (EL, Soffer). Gannets moved in some numbers during Nov. with 30+ off Shinnecock Nov. 8 (DL) and 40 there Nov. 15 (JC). The first report of Great Cormorants other than the individual seen at Jamaica Bay on Labor Day weekend, was five from Glen Cove, on Long Island Sound, Oct. 11 (AL). About 30 were present at their winter location off Sands Point by Oct. 28. Thirty to eighty were around Great Gull from Oct. through late Nov. (JDiC). A breeding season report of 100 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nesting on Fisher's Island was received (*fide* J. Bull). A Great Egret was in an uncommon location at Spuyten Duyvil Sept. 5 (WS). The last Great Egret was seen at Mount Sinai Oct. 9, and at Hook Pond Oct. 13 (DL). A Snowy Egret at Shinnecock Nov. 11 was on the late side (GSR, RA). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Upton Oct. 7 and 8 was the last reported (JC). At least one WHITE-FACED IBIS lingered until

Sept. 3 at Jamaica Bay (R. Lewis). A Whistling Swan at Jamaica Bay Nov. 1 was rare in that location; four were at Hook Pond Nov. 28 (DL). Brant moved into the Region around Oct. 4 (DL); their numbers built up through the period. An adult **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** of the western race was present at Wainscott Oct. 19 (R. Hines). An imm. was found Nov. 23 at Jamaica Bay and remained in the area through the period (DR, THD, *et al.*). Snow Geese were reported in above average numbers this fall from many locations. Max. counts included 500 at Riis Park Oct. 11 (P. W. Post), and 600 at Jones Beach Oct. 15 (L. Shore, J. & J. P. Latil), and 800+ on Nov. 3 over Great Gull (JDiC). Pintails arrived Sept. 23 at Mt. Sinai with 20 present (DL). Thirty Green-winged Teal were in the same location Sept. 10. Drake European Wigeons were reported from several locations: two were at Southaven Park Oct. 29-Nov. 15 (JC, DL, RA), where one stayed through the period. Single birds were reported from Halsey's Pond in Mecox Oct. 24, 30 (GSR), and Nov. 28 (DL). Another was in Center Moriches Nov. 13 (JC) and Nov. 15 (DL), one at Hempstead Lake Nov. 9 (S. Yeaton), and one was at Jamaica Bay in early Nov. Canvasbacks were present in better numbers this year than in recent years. Their numbers had built up to 375 at Jerome Reservoir in the Bronx by Nov. 25 (WS), and were said to outnumber Greater Scaup in most locations on eastern Long Island (DL). A drake and five female Harlequin Ducks arrived in a storm Nov. 18 on Great Gull (G. Meyer) and through Nov. 20; only one was seen Nov. 21 (JDiC). A female Harlequin was seen at Jones Beach Dec. 2 (DL). A King Eider was found at Montauk Nov. 16 (A. & T. Townsend). A high count of 385 Ruddy Ducks at Jerome Reservoir Nov. 25 surpassed numbers of recent years (WS). A good count of 58 Hooded Mergansers was made at Jamaica Bay Nov. 29 (W. Reilly, M. Stapleton, G. Dadone). Four female Com. Mergansers at Lake Panamoka on Dec. 1 were early (DL).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vultures were reported from Poxabogue Oct. 13 (DL), Jamaica Bay the same day, and from Calverton Oct. 30 (JC). Goshawks appeared in scattered locations through the Region during the latter part of Oct. Two were at Muttontown Oct. 19 (AL). Sharp-shinned Hawks moved in good numbers along the beaches during Oct. with 331 reported from Fire Island (C. Safina); 1,522 were recorded for the season at the N.Y. Botanical Gardens watch, and 1,150 at Moses Mountain, Staten Island. Seventeen Cooper's Hawks were noted at the Botanical Gardens; 22 recorded at Moses Mountain. Five Cooper's were observed at Breezy Point, four at Fire Island (C. Safina). Single birds were at Spuyten Duyvil Sept. 24 (WS), Mecox Oct. 29 and Nov. 16 (DL). A Cooper's Hawk was banded on Fire Island Oct. 26 (D. Ford). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Port Washington Nov. 30 (H. Roth), and from Glen Cove Nov. 30 (AL). Six were on the N.Y. Botanical Gardens tally, two at Moses Mountain. Rough-legged Hawks were present in greater numbers than the last few winters. An early Rough-legged was seen in Calverton Oct. 13 (DL); at least two individuals were present along the Jones Beach strip (PG, GSR, *et al.*). One was at Baiting Hollow Nov. 23 (JC). An imm. Golden Eagle was reported as follows: Oct. 13 in Bellport (W. Graves), Nov. 12 at Moses Mountain (R. Claremont, RZE, *et al.*), Nov. 13 Central Islip (R. Ostrowski), one on the N.Y. Botanical Gardens Watch (SH). An adult Bald Eagle was seen at Fort Tilden Oct. 3 (H. Richard) and an imm. was at Jamaica Bay Oct. 21 (L. Shore); a total of three were on the N.Y. Botanical Gardens count. Marsh Hawks seemed in average to better than average numbers: 104 recorded at Breezy Point, 89 at Moses Mountain, 67 from the N.Y. Botanical Gardens, and 259 from Fire Island (C. Safina). A total of 270 Ospreys passed Breezy Point during the fall. Fewer Peregrine Falcons were reported than during last year's banner flight, yet numbers remained encouraging. A Peregrine trapped in Oct. by C. Safina carried a Danish band; inquiry proved that the bird was banded in Greenland as a nestling in July. Five Peregrines were reported from Jones Beach Oct. 5 (AW, H. Hirshbein), six were seen from Moses Mountain, seven at the N.Y. Botanical Gardens, eight at Breezy Point, and 19 on Fire Island (C. Safina). Single birds were at Riis Park Oct. 8 (WS), Jamaica Bay Nov. 11 and 17 (*vide* L. Shore). Merlins numbered 39 at Moses Mountain, seven at the N.Y. Botanical Gardens, 113 at Breezy Point, and 308 on Fire Island (C. Safina). They were widely reported throughout the Region particularly along the



beaches. A total of 1,531 Am. Kestrels was reported from Breezy Point, 725 at the N.Y. Botanical Gardens, 218 at Moses Mountain, and 344 from Fire Island (C. Safina). A misplaced imm. Virginia Rail was observed running down Madison Ave. near 35th St. during the evening rush hour Sept. 11 (*fide* THD). A Sora was in Sea Cliff Oct. 2 (BJS). Rails were otherwise unreported except for two or three Clapper Rails at Jamaica Bay toward the end of Nov. (*fide* L. Shore). Twelve Am. Oystercatchers were seen at Shinnecock Oct. 4 (DL), six lingered until Nov. 2 (GSR). A Whimbrel was at Jamaica Bay Sept. 14 (R. Lewis). A max of 200 Greater Yellowlegs with a few Lessers mixed in was seen at the Goethals Bridge pond on Staten Island Oct. 7 (GB). Twenty-six lingered until Nov. 27 at Hempstead Lake (EL). Three Am. Golden Plovers lingered until Nov. 23 at JFK airport (S. Chevalier); one was at Fire Island Oct. 31 (FF), two further east at Smith Point Nov. 13, and one there Nov. 20 (JC), 25 were at a sod farm at Miller Place on Oct. 31. Earlier records included 18 Sept. 1 at Riverhead (GSR). A big easterly storm brought 21 Red Knots to a Southampton driving range along with Black-bellied Plovers Nov. 28 (DL, RA). A concentration of over 100 Purple Sandpipers was present at Great Kills Park in Nov. (GB). Seven were at Shinnecock Nov. 16 and 24 at Jones Beach Nov. 27 (*fide* L. Shore). Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Jamaica Bay Sept. 13-14 (R. Lewis *et al.*), five at Mecox Sept. 19 (P. A. Buckley); one or two Baird's were at Jamaica Bay from early Oct. through Oct. 17. Three enormous flocks of over 1,000 Dunlin each were observed in the Jones Beach area Oct. 11 (BJS). Two sandpipers at Hempstead Lake Nov. 27 appeared to be Semipalmateds despite the late date (EL). A max of 200 Western Sandpipers was on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Sept. 6 (J. Yrizarry). Better than average numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported this year: seven were at Mitchell Field Sept. 6 (H. Roth), five at Jamaica Bay Sept. 13 (R. Lewis *et al.*), up to 13 (Aug. 30) Aug. 27-Sept. 21 at Sagaponack (AW, BJS, *et al.*), up to nine were at a sod farm in Eastport through Sept. 21 (AW), seven were at Miller Field, S.I., Sept. 1 (R. Clermont). Up to five Marbled Godwits were at Jamaica Bay in early Sept. One lingered to Nov. 30; two were at Zach's Bay on Jones Beach Sept. 25 (AW). A single Hudsonian Godwit lingered at Jamaica Bay Nov. 7 (*fide* D. Riepe). A late Am. Avocet was present at Jamaica Bay Oct. 16-19. An imm. Red Phalarope was there Sept. 27-28; another was seen on the Block Canyon pelagic trip Sept. 20. A No. Phalarope Sept. 16-17 was a rare sighting for the North Shore area (D. Thompson, H. McClure, BJS). A Wilson's Phalarope was found Sept. 13 at the Goethals Bridge pond (W. and N. Siebenheller). A max of 30 Pomarine Jaegers was observed Sept. 20 on the Federation Block Canyon trip. A Glaucous Gull in second-year plumage was reported from Jamaica Bay Sept. 13 (R. Lewis), and one was found at Great Kills S.I. Oct. 11 where it was present off and on for two weeks (GB, B. Schiefer, RZE). An adult Iceland Gull (*kumlieni* race) was at Great Kills Aug. 24 (R. Clermont *et al.*); a first year bird was at Sagaponack Oct. 29 (GSR, DL). The adult *kumlieni* returned on Dec. 7 to its Jones Beach restaurant post for the fourth successive winter. It can best be found there in the afternoon. A sub-adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Great Kills Park Aug. 24 (R. Clermont *et al.*). An adult was found at Montauk Oct. 23 (AJL). A high count of Ring-billed Gulls was reached Sept. 21 at Jerome Reservoir with 1,013 present. Ten percent were first year birds. A fully adult Andean Gull, a known escape, returned with the Ringed-bills (WS). An imm. Black-headed Gull was sighted at Jones Beach Nov. 29 (AJL). The high count of Laughing Gulls at Mt. Sinai Sept. 23 was 225. A small number summer here, with no evidence of nesting. Twenty were left there Oct. 25 (DL). Fewer than usual were at Jerome Reservoir Oct. 18 with 101 counted (WS). An imm. Little Gull was seen by many observers Aug. 16 at Jamaica Bay. A max of 200+ Black-legged Kittiwakes was at Montauk on Nov. 28 in a strong easterly gale (DL). A max of 25 Forster's Terns was at Poxabogue Pond Sept. 6; a late Forster's was seen at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 1 (DL). Royal Terns were regular at Mecox and Shinnecock Inlet, but less numerous than in some recent years; 22 were at the Inlet Oct. 12 (GSR), 25 at Mecox Oct. 13 (DL); the last reported were three at the Inlet Nov. 8 (DL). A single Royal Tern was seen at Great Kills Oct. 11 (GB, B. Schiefer). An adult and an imm. Caspian Tern were seen by many at Jamaica Bay Aug. 26-Sept. 1.



Three Caspians were at Mecox Bay Sept. 9 (AJL), four at Jones Beach Oct. 12 (C. Ward). No Black Terns were "seen or heard of" on eastern L.I. (GSR), a big change from last year's numbers. Eleven Black Terns were at Prince's Bay S.I. in early Sept. (W. & N. Siebenheller).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** A Yellow-billed Cuckoo Oct. 12 at Tiana Beach was on the late side (JC). Two Barn Owls were reported at Cedar Beach Nov. 16 (WL). A single bird was there Nov. 22 (WL), and Dec. 2 (DL). A single Barn Owl was found at Jones Beach Oct. 30 (AW). Three Screech Owls were in Glen Cove: one at Garvies Point Sept. 28 (BJS), Oct. 5 (RC), and two at Welwyn Oct. 14 (AL). Snowy Owls were reported as follows: one Nov. 10 at Gilgo Beach (*fide* FF), Nov. 15 Howard Beach (D. Riepe), two Nov. 16 Great Kills Park S.I. where one remained until Nov. 29 (GB, B. Schiefer, RZE), one at Jamaica Bay Nov. 18 (*fide* D. Riepe). A Snowy was at Great Gull Nov. 20 (JDiC), a single bird was at JFK airport Nov. 21 (S. Chevalier); two different birds were found there Nov. 23 by the same observer. Many observers saw a Snowy at Jones Beach between Nov. 23-30. An individual was at Fire Island Nov. 23 (D. Ford). Sightings at Westhampton Beach Nov. 26, 27, 29 involved at least two individuals, one a very dark bird. Another Snowy was at Tobay Nov. 26 (PG), another at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 29 (H. McGuinness) and Nov. 30 (*fide* GSR). The same day a Snowy was at Moriches Inlet (G. Tudor, *et al.*). It is likely that some duplication in these sightings exists as these owls move up and down the outer beaches. Two Long-eared Owls were found at Cedar Beach Nov. 11 (WL). Four Short-eared Owls were at the west end of Jones Beach Nov. 5 (D. Thompson, *et al.*). Two Short-eareds were seen at Jones Beach Nov. 8 (G. & M. Dreameaux), two at Jamaica Bay Nov. 16 (*fide* L. Shore), one at Tobay Nov. 17 (S. Yeaton), another there Nov. 27. A single Short-eared was at Jamaica Bay Nov. 13 (W. Reilly, M. Stapleton), and one in Cupsogue the same day (JC). Two Saw-whet Owls were banded on Great Gull, one Oct. 20 and the other Nov. 19 (JDiC). Saw-whet Owls were found along the Jones Beach strip Oct. 30 (AW), Nov. 15 (W. Reilly, G. Dadone), Nov. 23 at Gilgo (AJL), and Nov. 16 at Cedar Beach (WL). A late Whip-poor-will was banded on Great Gull Oct. 15 (JDiC). One hundred-forty Com. Nighthawks were seen at Baiting Hollow Sept. 1 (GSR). The observer mentioned that no Aug. birds were seen which was unusual. Small groups of nighthawks were seen through the middle of the month with 11, Sept. 21 at Manorville and 11 at Wading River the same day (GSR). Ten nighthawks were at Stonybrook Sept. 22 (DL) while 100 flew by in one hour on Sept. 14 at the Moses Mountain watch (BG *et al.*). A nighthawk roosting on a television antenna in Sea Cliff Sept. 19 was a treat to the observer and permitted rooftop photography (BJS). Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen at Jones Beach Sept. 7 (EL), and another at Tiana Beach Sept. 26 (DL). Over 100 Com. Flickers per hour were passing Riis Park on Oct. 8 (WS). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were widely distributed on the north shore, but one in Manorville Nov. 22 through the period was unusual (GSR). A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen on Fire Island Oct. 10 (RA); an adult was found at Jones Beach Sept. 7 (EL, AW, *et al.*). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemed scarce this fall.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** Western Kingbirds were present in fewer numbers than in recent years: one was seen Sept. 7 at Jones Beach (CW), many saw a bird in Central Park Sept. 14-15, a report came from Jamaica Bay Sept. 24 (R. Jeffers), another from Fort Tilden Sept. 24 (H. Richard), there was a second Jones Beach report Oct. 12 (CW), and one from Fire Island Oct. 13 completed the list. Some duplication in these reports seems likely. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen at Upton Sept. 9 (GSR). A late date was set for a Yellow-bellied when a bird was netted at Tobay Nov. 2 (AJL). An *Empidonax* species also seen on Nov. 2 in Glen Cove was very green-backed and appeared to be an Acadian, an impression supported by examination of museum skins (RC, BJS). A late Least Flycatcher was banded on Oct. 3 on Great Gull (JDiC). Three Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen Aug. 18 in Forest Park (G. Tudor). Single birds were reported Sept. 7 at Jones Beach (EL), and Sept. 9 at Upton (GSR). Tree Swallows gather in great numbers in our Region prior to moving further south; 5,000 were present at Great Kills Park Oct. 11 (GB *et al.*). A big flight of Red-

breasted Nuthatches developed this fall with the first arriving Aug. 23 at scattered locations. A heavy flight of Blue Jays was seen Sept. 24 at Spuyten Duyvil with 350+ observed in ten minutes over the Hudson River (WS). A very late House Wren was found Nov. 27 at Hempstead Lake (EL). An imm. Carolina Wren in Forest Park Sept. 11 was in an unusual location (G. Tudor *et al.*). A Short-billed Marsh Wren Oct. 5 at Riis Park was the only one reported this fall (R. Kelly). E. Bluebirds were reported as follows: one at Upton Oct. 1 (JC), three at Manorville Oct. 21 (GSR), nine the same day at Upton (JC) where eight remained Oct. 28; six were at Sagaponack Oct. 29 (GSR, DL). Loggerhead Shrikes were sparsely reported: one was seen Sept. 13 at Mecox (L. Shore), one Sept. 17 at Manorville (GSR), and a third Nov. 23 at JFK airport (S. Chevalier).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** A Yellow-throated Vireo was banded Sept. 20 on Great Gull (JDiC), another was seen in Glen Cove Oct. 5 (BJS). Three Philadelphia Vireos were banded on Great Gull, one Sept. 5, Sept. 11, and 13 (JDiC). Another was seen Sept. 24 at Spuyten Duyvil (WS). Two Warbling Vireos banded Aug. 28 and Sept. 7 were the first ones on Great Gull in nine years (JDiC). Late Black-and-white Warblers were seen Oct. 26 at Spuyten Duyvil (WS), Nov. 7 on Staten Island (B. Bouquoio) and at Jamaica Bay Nov. 15 (G. & M. Dremeaux). A rare fall report of Prothonotary Warbler was made by P. Polshek Sept. 14 at Montauk. A Worm-eating Warbler was netted in Manorville Sept. and another was seen there Sept. 7 (GSR). A female Golden-winged Warbler was seen Aug. 16 at Tobay (EL). "Brewster's" Warblers were reported Aug. 8 in S. Hempstead (EL), and Sept. 11 in Forest Park (G. Tudor). A late Tennessee Warbler was banded on Great Gull Oct. 30 where a freshly dead one was picked up Nov. 3 (JDiC). An Orange-crowned Warbler was banded on Great Gull Oct. 31 (JDiC). Another was at Mecox Oct. 29, and at Hither Hills the same day (DL). A late Yellow Warbler banded Oct. 7 on Great Gull was apparently of the eastern race, not the Alaskan race as might be suspected for a late bird. A Cape May Warbler Nov. 2 at Jones Beach was late (EL). "Myrtle" Warblers were present in great numbers on Fire Island and Jones Beach Oct. 11. Over 450 were seen Oct. 18 in one hour of observation at Riis Park (WS). A Black-throated Green Warbler Nov. 2 at Jones Beach was the latest report received (EL). A late female Blackburnian was banded Oct. 21 on Great Gull where a late Ovenbird was banded Oct. 27. The Ovenbird was still on the island Nov. 23 when the observer left (JDiC). Eight Blackpoll Warblers at Montauk Oct. 29 were on the late side (DL) as was one netted Nov. 2 at Tobay (AJL). Connecticut Warblers were reported Sept. 7 at Jones Beach (EL) and Oct. 7 at Sagaponack (AJL). A total of 14 Yellow-breasted Chats were banded on Great Gull during the fall: two Aug. 26, two Aug. 28, one Aug. 29, one Sept. 3, two Sept. 7, two Sept. 20 and one Sept. 23, Oct. 14, and Nov. 1 (JDiC). An Am. Redstart at Mecox Nov. 11 completes the list of late warblers (RA, GSR).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** An adult male **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was found at Mecox Sept. 21 (THD *et al.*); a female was there Sept. 27 (M. Cashman), and a female at Sagaponack Oct. 10 (AJL). Red-winged Blackbirds moved along the beaches and through the Bronx in large numbers in the latter part of Nov., late for the species. An adult female **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** was found Nov. 9 in the same cow pasture in Mecox that produced the Yellow-headed Blackbirds earlier (A. Keith). Three female **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES** were at Cow Meadow in Freeport Oct. 5 (AW) and fairly regularly thru Nov. 30 (AW, BJS, *et al.*). It is tempting to speculate that a pair bred somewhere in the area last summer? A male **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** was watched for several minutes Sept. 24 at Spuyten Duyvil (WS). A Blue Grosbeak was reported Oct. 12 from Fire Island where two were found Oct. 19 (R. Kelly). A max of three Dickcissels were seen at Montauk Point Sept. 21 (THD), while single individuals were reported from Jones Beach Sept. 5 (EL), and Sept. 11 (AW), and from Sagaponack Oct. 7 (AJL). Evening Grosbeaks moved along the beach in early Nov.; a max of 100 were seen at Tobay Nov. 2 (AJL). Eighteen were flying west along Fire Island Nov. 1 (GSR); groups of five or six birds were fairly widely reported at feeders on the north shore. Purple Finches were present in small numbers: 15 at Muttontown Oct. 20 (AL) and eight at Montauk Oct. 29 (DL) were the largest groups reported. Three Com.

Redpolls were banded early Nov. on Great Gull, were the only ones reported (JDiC). Pine Siskins moved in vast numbers along the south shore beaches starting about Oct. 4 and persisted through the first two weeks of Nov. flying in flocks of 15 or 20 to 75 birds. A total of 1,400 was seen in a period of three-and-a-half hours on Jones Beach and Fire Island Oct. 13 (BJS), and 1,000 moved past Tobay Nov. 2 (AJL). Siskins were much less in evidence on the north shore: 75 were seen at Muttontown Nov. 11 (AL) and 41 in Glen Cove (AL, L. Lindberg). No crossbills were reported. The first report of "Ipswich" Sparrow was one Oct. 29 at Mecox (GSR). One was banded on Great Gull Nov. 12. A well-described Henslow's Sparrow was seen in Mill Neck Oct. 27 (H. McClure). Vesper Sparrows were in very small numbers; three were at Muttontown Oct. 14 (AL), one at Upton Oct. 7 (JC). Lark Sparrows were found at Jones Beach Aug. 17 (AJL), Sept. 13 at Gilgo (R. O. Paxton), Sept. 28 at Fire Island (R. Kelly), Oct. 7 at Sagaponack (AJL), and Oct. 12 at Fire Island (WL). An imm Chipping Sparrow was at a feeder in Sea Cliff Nov. 29 (A. Bell). A big flight of White-crowned Sparrows was experienced along the Jones Beach strip with a max of 250 Oct. 24 (AJL). An adult of the Gambel's race was carefully studied Oct. 24 at Tobay (AJL). A group of 38 at Muttontown Oct. 14 was a large number for a North Shore location (AL). A few fall Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded: one Oct. 4 in Port Washington (BJS), one Oct. 23 in Upton (JC), one at Jerome Reservoir Nov. 2 (WS), and another was in the Port Washington sand pits Nov. 10. The first Lapland Longspurs on Staten Island appeared at Great Kills Park Oct. 27 (GB). Another Lapland Longspur was netted while passing through shrubby trees at Tobay Nov. 2 (AJL). Snow Buntings appeared in the Region during the last week of Oct. A count of 150 was at Smith Point on Fire Island in early Nov. (JC, DL), 100 at Jones Beach, and smaller flocks of 25 to 60 at points in between.

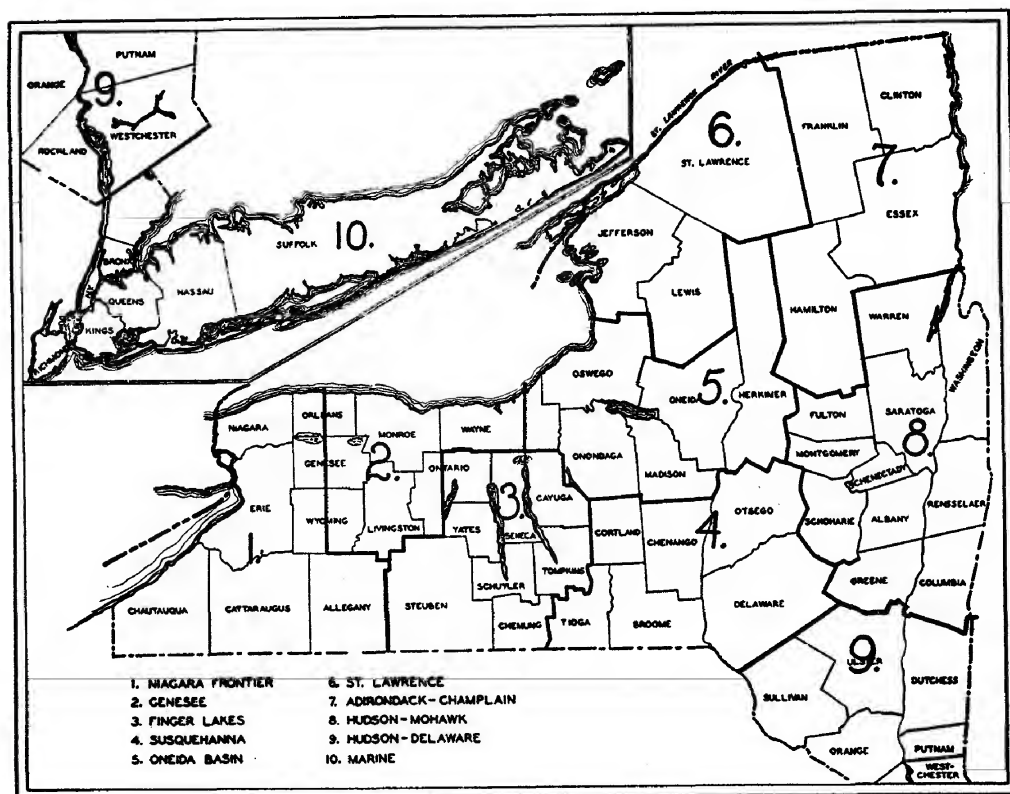
154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, New York 11579

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Endangered Species Unit of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is continuing their statewide nesting surveys of the Loggerhead Shrike and the Cooper's Hawk in an attempt to clarify their status in New York State. Information is needed on locations of nest sites (historical or presently active), reproductive success, and sightings of these species during the nesting season. Any data provided will be treated with the utmost discretion. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Please direct any information to:

Endangered Species Unit  
Wildlife Resources Center  
Delmar, New York 12054  
(518) 457-7484

## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February  
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May  
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August  
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November  
Deadline is December 7



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